

House File 128 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 128
BY BRECKENRIDGE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act limiting campaign contributions to certain candidates
2 and making civil and criminal penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.507 Contribution limits for
2 candidates.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, "*election campaign*
4 *cycle*" means the time period between elections for a particular
5 office. Each primary, general, and special election is a
6 separate election campaign cycle. Separate contribution limits
7 for each type of election for a particular office, including
8 primary, general, and special elections, apply in an election
9 campaign cycle.

10 2. A person shall not make and a candidate, candidate's
11 committee, or anyone acting on behalf of any candidate or
12 candidate's committee shall not accept any contribution which
13 will cause the total amount of the person's contributions to
14 a candidate or candidate's committee to exceed the following
15 amounts for an election campaign cycle:

16 a. From a political committee that contributes to five or
17 more candidates, five thousand dollars.

18 b. From a political committee that contributes to fewer than
19 five candidates, two thousand seven hundred dollars.

20 c. From a national political party, state statutory
21 political committee, or county statutory political committee,
22 five thousand dollars.

23 d. From any other person, two thousand seven hundred
24 dollars.

25 3. This section applies to candidates for state senator,
26 state representative, and the office of a statewide elected
27 official as defined in section 68B.2.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill imposes campaign contribution limits on candidates
32 for state senator or representative and candidates for
33 statewide elected office. In an election campaign cycle,
34 a political committee that contributes to five or more
35 candidates shall not contribute more than \$5,000 to one

1 candidate; a political committee that contributes to fewer
2 than five candidates shall not contribute more than \$2,700 to
3 one candidate; a national political party, state statutory
4 political committee, or county statutory political committee
5 shall not contribute more than \$5,000; and no other person
6 shall contribute more than \$2,700.

7 A person who violates the bill is subject to penalties
8 pursuant to Code section 68B.32D. A person who willfully
9 violates this bill is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A
10 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more
11 than one year and a fine of at least \$315 but not more than
12 \$1,875.

13 A variety of civil remedies are also available in Code
14 section 68B.32D for a violation of Code chapter 68A or rules
15 of the ethics and campaign disclosure board, ranging from a
16 reprimand to a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000.