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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION

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

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