

CHAPTER 51**(HB 228)**

AN ACT relating to campaign finance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 121.150 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) No contribution shall be made or received, directly or indirectly, other than an independent expenditure, to support inauguration activities or to support or defeat a candidate, slate of candidates, constitutional amendment, or public question which will appear on the ballot in an election, except through the duly appointed campaign manager, or campaign treasurer of the candidate, slate of candidates, or registered committee. Any person making an independent expenditure, shall report these expenditures when the expenditures by that person exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate in any one (1) election, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry and shall sign a statement on the form, under penalty of perjury, that the expenditure was an actual independent expenditure and that there was no prior communication with the campaign on whose behalf it was made.
- (2) Except as provided in KRS 121.180(10), the solicitation from and contributions by campaign committees, caucus campaign committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, and party executive committees to any religious, charitable, civic, eleemosynary, or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good is expressly prohibited; except that it shall not be construed as a violation of this section for a candidate or a slate of candidates to contribute to religious, civic, or charitable groups.
- (3) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept any anonymous contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50), and all anonymous contributions in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be returned to the donor, if the donor can be determined. If no donor is found, the contribution shall escheat to the state. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate in any one (1) election. Anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate which are received in any one (1) election shall escheat to the state.
- (4) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate from each contributor in any one (1) election. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cashier's check or money order in excess of the maximum cash contribution limit unless the instrument clearly identifies both the payor and the payee. A contribution made by cashier's check or money order which identifies both the payor and payee shall be treated as a contribution made by check for purposes of the contribution limits contained in this section. No person shall make a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate in any one (1) election to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf.
- (5) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept any contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person who shall not become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the next general election.
- (6) No candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept a contribution of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from any person, permanent committee, or contributing organization in any one (1) election~~}; except that no candidate for school board, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept a contribution of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person or more than two hundred dollars (\$200) from any permanent committee or contributing organization in any one (1) election~~. No person, permanent committee, or contributing organization shall contribute more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to any one (1) candidate, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election~~}; except that no person shall contribute more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and no permanent committee or contributing organization shall contribute more than two hundred dollars (\$200) to any one (1) school board candidate, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election~~.
- (7) Permanent committees or contributing organizations affiliated by bylaw structure or by registration, as determined by the Registry of Election Finance, shall be considered as one (1) committee for purposes of applying the contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.

- (8) No permanent committee shall contribute funds to another permanent committee for the purpose of circumventing contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (9) No person shall contribute funds to a permanent committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization for the purpose of circumventing the contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (10) No person shall contribute more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to all permanent committees and contributing organizations in any one (1) year.
- (11) No person shall contribute more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to the state executive committee of a political party and its subdivisions and affiliates in any one (1) year. No person shall contribute more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to a caucus campaign committee in any one (1) year. Contributions a person makes to any executive committee other than the state executive committee in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in any one (1) year shall be deposited in a separate account which the state executive committee maintains for the exclusive purpose of paying administrative costs incurred by the political party.
- (12) No person shall make a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money to another person to contribute to a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf shall accept a contribution made by one (1) person who has received a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money from another person to contribute to a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf.
- (13) No candidates running as a slate for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall make combined total personal loans to their committee in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in any one (1) election. No candidate for any other statewide elected state office shall lend to his committee any amount in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in any one (1) election. In campaigning for all other offices, no candidate shall lend to his committee more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election.
- (14) Subject to the provisions of subsection (18) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for primary election expenses after the date of the primary. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for primary election expenses after the date of the primary.
- (15) Subject to the provisions of subsection (18) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for any state, county, city, or district office at a regular election, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election.
- (16) Subject to the provisions of subsection (18) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for special election expenses after the date of the special election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for special election expenses after the date of the special election.
- (17) The provisions of subsections (14) and (15) of this section shall apply only to those candidates in a primary or regular election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1989. The provisions of subsection (16) of this section shall apply only to those candidates or slates of candidates in a special election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1993.
- (18) A candidate, slate of candidates, or a campaign committee may solicit and accept contributions after the date of a primary election, regular election, or special election to defray necessary expenses that arise after the date of the election associated with election contests, recounts, and recanvasses of a specific election, complaints regarding alleged campaign finance violations that are filed with the registry pertaining to a specific election, or other legal actions pertaining to a specific election to which a candidate, slate of candidates, or campaign committee is a party. Reports of contributions received and expenditures made after the date of the specific election shall be made in accordance with KRS 121.180.
- (19) No slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor or their immediate families shall loan any money, service, or other thing of value to their campaign, and all moneys, services, or other things of value which are loaned shall be deemed a contribution, which may not be recovered by the slate of candidates, except to the extent of a combined total of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

- (20) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, except a political issues committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall knowingly accept a contribution from a corporation, directly or indirectly.
- (21) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the ability of a corporation to administer its permanent committee insofar as its actions can be deemed not to influence an election as prohibited by KRS 121.025.
- (22) No candidate, slate of candidates, or committee, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit a contribution of money or services from a state employee, whether or not the employee is covered by the classified service provisions of KRS Chapter 18A. However, it shall not be a violation of this subsection for a state employee to receive a solicitation directed to him as a registered voter in an identified precinct as part of an overall plan to contact voters not identified as state employees.
- (23) (a) A candidate or a slate of candidates for elective public office shall not accept contributions from permanent committees which, in the aggregate, exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total contributions accepted by the candidate or a slate of candidates in any one (1) election or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election, whichever is the greater amount. The percentage of the total contributions or dollar amounts of contributions accepted by a candidate or a slate of candidates in an election that is accepted from permanent committees shall be calculated as of the day of each election. Funds in a candidate's or a slate of candidates' campaign account which are carried forward from one (1) election to another shall not be considered in calculating the acceptable percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees for the election for which the funds are carried forward. A candidate or a slate of candidates may, without penalty, contribute funds to his campaign account not later than sixty (60) days following the election so as not to exceed the permitted percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees or the candidate or a slate of candidates may, not later than sixty (60) days after the end of the election, refund any excess permanent committee contributions on a pro rata basis to the permanent committees whose contributions are accepted after the aggregate limit has been reached.
- (b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection regarding the receipt of aggregate contributions from permanent committees in any one (1) election shall also apply separately to the receipt of aggregate contributions from executive committees of any county, district, state, or federal political party in any one (1) election.
- (c) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection regarding the receipt of aggregate contributions from permanent committees in any one (1) election shall also apply separately to the receipt of aggregate contributions from caucus campaign committees.
- (24) No candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state shall accept a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, which is made from funds in a federal campaign account. No person shall make a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, from funds in a federal campaign account to any candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state.

➔Section 2. KRS 121.170 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any committee, except a federally-registered out-of-state permanent committee, organized under any provisions of this chapter shall register with the registry, by filing official notice of intention at the time of organization, giving names, addresses, and positions of the officers of the organization, ***identifying an official contact person of the committee***, and designating the candidate or candidates, slate of candidates, or question it is organized to support or oppose on forms prescribed by the registry; except that no campaign committee for a slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be registered prior to the filing of a joint notification and declaration by the slate of candidates pursuant to KRS 118.125 and 118.127. No entity which is excluded from the definition of "campaign committee" established in KRS 121.015(3)(a) shall be required to register as a committee with the registry. The name of the committee shall reasonably identify to the public the sponsorship and purpose of the committee. The forms filed with the registry shall require the registrant to clearly identify the specific purpose, sponsorship, and source from which the committee originates; and the registry shall refuse to allow filing by any committee until this requirement has been satisfied.
- (2) Any person who acts as a fundraiser by directly soliciting contributions for an election campaign of a candidate or slate of candidates for statewide-elected state office or an office in a jurisdiction containing in excess of two hundred thousand (200,000) residents shall register with the registry when he ***or she*** raises in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election for the campaign committee by filing official notice giving his ***or her*** name, address, occupation, employer or, if he ***or she*** is self-employed, the name under which he ***or she*** is doing business, and all candidates or slates of candidates for whom he ***or she*** is soliciting

on forms prescribed by the registry. A registered fundraiser shall comply with the campaign finance reporting requirements of KRS 121.180(3), (4), and (5).

- (3) All provisions of KRS 121.160 governing the duties and responsibilities of a candidate, slate of candidates, or campaign treasurer shall apply to a registered committee, except a federally-registered out-of-state permanent committee, and a person acting as a campaign fundraiser. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of a campaign treasurer for a permanent committee or executive committee, the ***chairperson***~~{chairman}~~ of the permanent committee or executive committee shall, within three (3) days after receiving notice of the vacancy by certified mail, appoint a successor as treasurer for the committee and file the name and address of the successor with the registry. The ***chairperson***~~{chairman}~~ of the permanent committee or executive committee shall be accountable as the treasurer for the committee if the ***chairperson***~~{chairman}~~ fails to meet this filing requirement.
- (4) The ***chairperson***~~{chairman}~~ of a committee and the campaign treasurer shall be separate persons.
- (5) Any federally-registered out-of-state permanent committee that contributes to a Kentucky candidate or a slate of candidates shall:
 - (a) File with the registry a copy of its federal registration (Federal Election Commission Form 1 - Committee Registration Form);
 - (b) File with the registry a copy of the Federal Election Commission finance report when a contribution is made to a Kentucky candidate or a slate of candidates; and
 - (c) Contribute not more than the maximum amount permitted for a permanent committee to make under Kentucky law to any candidate or to any slate of candidates for any office in this Commonwealth.
- (6) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a contribution made by a federally-registered permanent committee to any candidate or to any slate of candidates for any office in this Commonwealth that complies with the provisions of 2 U.S.C. sec. 441b, 11 C.F.R. sec. 104.10, 11 C.F.R. sec. 106.6, and 11 C.F.R. sec. 114.1-114.12 regarding limitations on contributions by corporations shall be deemed to comply with the campaign finance laws of this Commonwealth prohibiting corporate contributions to candidates or slates of candidates.
- (7) The organization, formation, or registration of a permanent committee by any member of the General Assembly shall be prohibited.
- (8) ***The official contact person of a permanent committee shall not be a legislative agent as defined in KRS 6.611 or an executive agency lobbyist as defined in KRS 11A.201.***

Signed by Governor March 16, 2011.