

HB 2039 -- Ethics

Sponsor: Kraus

This bill changes the laws regarding ethics, lobbying, and campaign contributions.

ETHICS AND LOBBYING

The bill:

(1) Prohibits the solicitation of expenditures and fund-raising activities and events supporting or opposing any candidate, ballot measure, political party, or political party committee on any property or in any building owned or leased by the state or any political subdivision;

(2) Specifies that the crime of acceding to corruption by a public servant includes when a member of the General Assembly exchanges an official vote on a public matter for an appointment to certain positions;

(3) Prohibits statewide elected officials, members of the General Assembly, and their employees or staff members from performing services for a political campaign other than the elected official's or the member's campaign;

(4) Prohibits a statewide elected official or a legislator and his or her spouse, dependent children, and parents from receiving compensation during his or her term of office for actions as a paid political consultant for another legislator or a statewide elected official or committee as defined under the Campaign Finance Disclosure Laws, Chapter 130, RSMo;

(5) Prohibits members of the General Assembly from acting, serving, or registering as a legislative lobbyist under the Conflict of Interest and Lobbying Laws, Chapter 105, within two years of leaving office; and

(6) Specifies that any person who intentionally offers to or accepts anything of value from an elected or appointed official or employee of the state or any political subdivision in direct exchange for voting for or against or engaging in any action designed to benefit, delay, or hinder the passage or failure of any specific state legislation, rule or regulation, or any local legislation or ordinance will be guilty of a class D felony.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

The bill:

(1) Prohibits a committee from transferring any funds received by the committee to any other committee as specified in Chapter 130. Any person who transfers or attempts to transfer funds from a committee to any other committee with the intent to conceal the identity of the source of funds will be guilty of a class D felony;

(2) Limits campaign donations from any person other than the candidate in any one election to candidates for statewide office at \$2,000; for state senator at \$1,000; and for state representative at \$500. Contribution limits for local candidate donations are based on population and are specified in the bill;

(3) Limits donations made or accepted by political party committees in any one election to \$2,000 for a statewide candidate; \$1,000 for a state senator candidate; \$500 for a state representative candidate; and 10 times the allowable individual contribution for candidates for other local offices. Political party committees may also expend up to 50% of these limits on a candidate who is unopposed in a primary election;

(4) Requires contributions from children younger than 14 years of age to be counted equally toward their parents' contribution limits or, in the case of a single parent, counted fully against that parent's contribution;

(5) Prohibits all contributions between continuing committees; and

(6) Requires, beginning August 28, 2010, all committees to file required disclosure reports in an electronic format as prescribed by the Missouri Ethics Commission.