

HB 1955 -- CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

SPONSOR: Schupp

This bill changes the laws regarding campaign contributions. In addition to the limitations imposed under Section 130.031, RSMo, the bill:

(1) Prohibits the amount of contributions made by or accepted from any person other than the candidate in any one election from exceeding:

(a) \$5,000 to elect an individual to any statewide office;

(b) \$1,500 to elect an individual to the office of state senator;

(c) \$750 to elect an individual to the office of state representative;

(d) \$750 to elect an individual to any other office, including judicial office, in an electoral district, ward, or other unit with a population not exceeding 50,000 persons;

(e) \$1,500 to elect an individual to any other office, including judicial office, in an electoral district, ward, or other unit with a population of more than 50,000 but not exceeding 150,000 persons; and

(f) \$5,000 to elect individuals to any other office, including judicial office, in an electoral district, ward, or other unit with more than 150,000 persons;

(2) Specifies the formula to be used to adjust the limit amounts on January 1 of each even-numbered year based on inflation according to the federal Consumer Price Index;

(3) Specifies that every committee must be subject to the donation limitations, but these provisions cannot limit the amount of contributions that may be accumulated by a candidate committee for future use for expenditures to further the nomination or election of the candidate who controls the candidate committee;

(4) Specifies that a contribution from a person younger than 14 years of age must be attributed toward any contribution limits. Where the contributor has two custodial parents or guardians, 50% of the contribution must be attributed to each parent or guardian and where the contributor has one custodial parent or guardian, all of the contribution must be attributed to the custodial parent or guardian;

(5) Requires contributions received and expenditures made before January 1, 2015, to be reported as a separate account and under the laws in effect at the time of the contributions or expenditures. Contributions received and expenditures made after January 1, 2015 must be reported as a separate account; and

(6) Specifies that any committee which accepts or gives contributions other than those allowed must be subject to a surcharge of \$1,000 plus the amount of any contribution made in violation of the bill on any candidate who does not return a nonallowable contribution within 10 business days of notice from the Missouri Ethics Commission. The candidate and the candidate committee treasurer or deputy treasurer owing a surcharge must be personally liable for the payment of the surcharge or may be paid only from campaign funds existing on the date of the receipt of notice of the nonallowable contribution and are enforceable as a debt under the provisions of Chapter 143.