

HCS HB 1788 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SPONSOR: Murphy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 12 to 0 with 1 member voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 1 with 1 member voting present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1788.

This bill requires all solicitations for campaign contributions to state, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the committee that will benefit from the donation. The solicitation must also indicate what percentage of the donation will be received by the committee, and any other entity that will receive any part of the contribution.

The bill allows the solicitation of automatically-recurring contributions only if the contributor gives affirmative consent for the recurring contribution. The passive action of a contributor, including, but not limited to, failing to uncheck a prechecked box does not constitute affirmative consent.

This bill requires committees soliciting recurring contributions to provide receipts to the contributors, the contents of which are specified in the bill, and to immediately cancel the recurring contributions upon request.

Any committee that obtains a contribution in violation of this bill must return the contribution to the donor immediately.

The bill allows the Missouri Ethics Commission to impose a civil penalty on a committee violating the provisions of this bill of up to 100 times the amount of the contribution received in violation of these provisions.

The bill requires recurring contributions to expire automatically after the election at which the candidate or issue benefiting from the contribution appears on the ballot. Recurring contributions made to a candidate who wins a primary election can continue until the general election.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is intended to prevent unscrupulous committees from tricking people into authorizing automatically-recurring contributions. The distrust this practice creates is harmful to all elected officials. Solicitations should state clearly the entity that will benefit from a contribution. More transparency will benefit everyone.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Murphy and Arnie C. Dienoff .

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.