

1 SENATE BILL NO. 418

2 INTRODUCED BY B. HAWKS

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS
5 APPLICABLE TO CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE SENATE TO CANDIDATES FOR CERTAIN OFFICES FOR
6 WHICH THE ELECTION IS COUNTYWIDE; EXTENDING THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS
7 APPLICABLE TO CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CANDIDATES FOR
8 CERTAIN OFFICES FOR WHICH THE ELECTION IS LESS THAN COUNTYWIDE; AND AMENDING
9 SECTIONS 13-37-216 AND 13-37-218, MCA."

10

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12

13 **Section 1.** Section 13-37-216, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"13-37-216. Limitations on contributions.** (1) (a) Aggregate contributions for each election in a
15 campaign by a political committee or by an individual, other than the candidate, to a candidate are limited as
16 follows:

17 (i) for candidates filed jointly for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$500;

18 (ii) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for
19 governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$250;

20 (iii) for a candidate for any other public office, not to exceed \$130.

21 (b) A contribution to a candidate includes contributions made to the candidate's committee and to any
22 political committee organized on the candidate's behalf.

23 (2) (a) A political committee that is not independent of the candidate is considered to be organized on
24 the candidate's behalf. For the purposes of this section, an independent committee means a committee that is
25 not specifically organized on behalf of a particular candidate or that is not controlled either directly or indirectly
26 by a candidate or candidate's committee and that does not act jointly with a candidate or candidate's committee
27 in conjunction with the making of expenditures or accepting contributions.

28 (b) A leadership political committee maintained by a political officeholder is considered to be organized
29 on the political officeholder's behalf.

30 (3) All political committees except those of political party organizations are subject to the provisions of

1 subsections (1) and (2). For purposes of this subsection, "political party organization" means any political
 2 organization that was represented on the official ballot at the most recent gubernatorial election. Political party
 3 organizations may form political committees that are subject to the following aggregate limitations from all
 4 political party committees:

5 (a) for candidates filed jointly for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$18,000;

6 (b) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for
 7 governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$6,500;

8 (c) for a candidate for public service commissioner, not to exceed \$2,600;

9 (d) for a candidate for the state senate and for a candidate for an office for which the election is
 10 countywide, not to exceed \$1,050;

11 (e) for a candidate for any other public office not listed in this subsection (3), including an office for
 12 which the election is less than countywide, not to exceed \$650.

13 (4) A candidate may not accept any contributions in excess of the limits in this section.

14 (5) For purposes of this section, "election" means the general election or a primary election that involves
 15 two or more candidates for the same nomination. If there is not a contested primary, there is only one election
 16 to which the contribution limits apply. If there is a contested primary, then there are two elections to which the
 17 contribution limits apply."

18

19 **Section 2.** Section 13-37-218, MCA, is amended to read:

20 "**13-37-218. Limitations on receipts from political committees.** A candidate for the state senate and
 21 a candidate for an office for which the election is countywide may receive no more than \$2,150 in total combined
 22 monetary contributions from all political committees contributing to the candidate's campaign, and a candidate
 23 for the state house of representatives and a candidate for an office, other than the state senate, for which the
 24 election is less than countywide may receive no more than \$1,300 in total combined monetary contributions from
 25 all political committees contributing to the candidate's campaign. The limitations in this section must be multiplied
 26 by an inflation factor, which is determined by dividing the consumer price index for June of the year prior to the
 27 year in which a general election is held by the consumer price index for June 2003. The resulting figure must
 28 be rounded up or down to the nearest \$50 increment. The commissioner shall publish the revised limitations as
 29 a rule. In-kind contributions must be included in computing these limitation totals. The limitation provided in this
 30 section does not apply to contributions made by a political party eligible for a primary election under 13-10-601."

31

- END -