

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 659

2 INTRODUCED BY J. SINRUD

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT LIMITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES
5 AND INCIDENTAL COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN SUPREME COURT ELECTIONS TO AGGREGATE
6 LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN
7 APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Judicial Elections
12 Act".

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Policy and purpose.** The legislature, mindful of its authority under Article
15 IV, section 3, and Article V of the Montana constitution, intends by enacting [section 1 through 4] to preserve the
16 public trust in the integrity, objectivity, and impartiality of Montana's judiciary, which is beyond reproach, from
17 any appearance of impropriety and the possibility of erosion of that trust that might be caused by contributions
18 for expenditures of money related to campaigns for judicial offices, directly or indirectly, in excess of limitations
19 on contributions in 13-37-216. The legislature finds that, on occasion, such contributions have been made to
20 judicial campaigns. The legislature further finds that it is vital to the confidence of the public in the government
21 of the state that the judiciary remain beyond any question impartial, objective, and without even the appearance
22 of impropriety and that the contributions may tend to erode confidence. The legislature's policy, therefore, is to
23 continue to allow contributions to committees involved, directly or indirectly, in judicial campaigns. However, in
24 order to accomplish the legislature's purpose, it is a reasonable exercise of its authority to limit contributions to
25 comport with the limitations established in 13-37-216.

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27 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Judicial campaigns -- limitations on contributions to independent**
28 **committees or incidental committees.** Aggregate contributions to an independent political committee or an
29 incidental political committee for an expenditure directly or indirectly involved in a campaign for supreme court
30 justice by an individual, other than the candidate, to a candidate are as provided in 13-37-216.

