

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2183

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 1997

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BOYD, Mr. COOK, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. HILL, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. KIND, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FORD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. JOHN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. WEYGAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bipartisan Campaign
5 Integrity Act of 1997”.

1 **TITLE I—SOFT MONEY AND CON-**
2 **TRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDI-**
3 **TURES OF POLITICAL PAR-**
4 **TIES**

5 **SEC. 101. BAN ON SOFT MONEY OF NATIONAL POLITICAL**
6 **PARTIES AND CANDIDATES.**

7 Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
8 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following new section:

10 “BAN ON USE OF SOFT MONEY BY NATIONAL POLITICAL
11 PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

12 “SEC. 323. (a) NATIONAL PARTIES.—A national
13 committee of a political party, including the national con-
14 gressional campaign committees of a political party, and
15 any officers or agents of such party committees, may not
16 solicit, receive, or direct any contributions, donations, or
17 transfers of funds, or spend any funds, which are not sub-
18 ject to the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting require-
19 ments of this Act. This subsection shall apply to any entity
20 that is established, financed, maintained, or controlled (di-
21 rectly or indirectly) by, or acting on behalf of, a national
22 committee of a political party, including the national con-
23 gressional campaign committees of a political party, and
24 any officers or agents of such party committees.

25 “(b) CANDIDATES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No candidate for Federal
2 office, individual holding Federal office, or any agent
3 of such candidate or officeholder may solicit, receive,
4 or direct—

5 “(A) any funds in connection with any
6 Federal election unless such funds are subject
7 to the limitations, prohibitions and reporting re-
8 quirements of this Act;

9 “(B) any funds that are to be expended in
10 connection with any election for other than a
11 Federal office unless such funds are not in ex-
12 cess of the amounts permitted with respect to
13 contributions to Federal candidates and politi-
14 cal committees under section 315(a) (1) and
15 (2), and are not from sources prohibited from
16 making contributions by this Act with respect
17 to elections for Federal office; or

18 “(C) any funds on behalf of any person
19 which are not subject to the limitations, prohi-
20 bitions, and reporting requirements of this Act
21 if such funds are for the purpose of financing
22 any activity on behalf of a candidate for elec-
23 tion for Federal office or any communication
24 which refers to a clearly identified candidate for
25 election for Federal office.

1 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—

2 Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

3 “(A) the solicitation or receipt of funds by
4 an individual who is a candidate for a non-Fed-
5 eral office if such activity is permitted under
6 State law for such individual’s non-Federal
7 campaign committee; or

8 “(B) the attendance by an individual who
9 holds Federal office at a fundraising event for
10 a State or local committee of a political party
11 of the State which the individual represents as
12 a Federal officeholder, if the event is held in
13 such State.

14 “(c) PROHIBITING TRANSFERS OF NON-FEDERAL
15 FUNDS BETWEEN STATE PARTIES.—A State committee
16 of a political party may not transfer any funds to a State
17 committee of a political party of another State unless the
18 funds are subject to the limitations, prohibitions, and re-
19 porting requirements of this Act.

20 “(d) APPLICABILITY TO FUNDS FROM ALL
21 SOURCES.—This section shall apply with respect to funds
22 of any individual, corporation, labor organization, or other
23 person.”.

1 **SEC. 102. INCREASE IN AGGREGATE ANNUAL LIMIT ON**
2 **CONTRIBUTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS TO POLITI-**
3 **CAL PARTIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section
5 315(a)(3) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
6 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(3)) is amended by striking “in any cal-
7 endar year” and inserting the following: “to political com-
8 mittees of political parties, or contributions aggregating
9 more than \$25,000 to any other persons, in any calendar
10 year”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
12 315(a)(1)(B) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(1)(B)) is
13 amended by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$25,000”.

14 **SEC. 103. REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF CO-**
15 **ORDINATED EXPENDITURES BY POLITICAL**
16 **PARTIES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 315(d) of the Federal
18 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(d)) is
19 amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3).

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 315(d)(1)
21 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 441a(d)(1)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “(d)(1)” and inserting “(d)”;
23 and

24 (2) by striking “, subject to the limitations con-
25 tained in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection”.

1 **TITLE II—INDEXING**
2 **CONTRIBUTION LIMITS**

3 **SEC. 201. INDEXING CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

4 Section 315(c) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
5 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(c)) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new paragraph:

7 “(3)(A) The amount of each limitation established
8 under subsection (a) shall be adjusted as follows:

9 “(i) For calendar year 1999, each such amount
10 shall be equal to the amount described in such sub-
11 section, increased (in a compounded manner) by the
12 percentage increase in the price index (as defined in
13 subsection (c)(2)) for each of the years 1997
14 through 1998.

15 “(ii) For calendar year 2003 and each fourth
16 subsequent year, each such amount shall be equal to
17 the amount for the fourth previous year (as adjusted
18 under this subparagraph), increased (in a
19 compounded manner) by the percentage increase in
20 the price index for each of the four previous years.

21 “(B) In the case of any amount adjusted under this
22 subparagraph which is not a multiple of \$100, the amount
23 shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.”.

1 **TITLE III—EXPANDING DISCLO-**
2 **SURE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
3 **INFORMATION**

4 **SEC. 301. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who expends an ag-
6 gregate amount of funds during a calendar year in excess
7 of \$25,000 for communications described in subsection (b)
8 relating to a single candidate for election for Federal office
9 (or an aggregate amount of funds during a calendar year
10 in excess of \$100,000 for all such communications relating
11 to all such candidates) shall file a report describing the
12 amount expended for such communications, together with
13 the person's address and phone number (or, if appro-
14 priate, the address and phone number of the person's prin-
15 cipal officer).

16 (b) COMMUNICATIONS DESCRIBED.—A communica-
17 tion described in this subsection is any communication
18 which is broadcast to the general public through radio or
19 television and which mentions or includes (by name, rep-
20 resentation, or likeness) any candidate for election for
21 Senator or for Representative in (or Delegate or Resident
22 Commissioner to) the Congress, other than any commu-
23 nication which would be described in clause (i), (iii), or
24 (v) of section 301(9)(B) of the Federal Election Campaign

1 Act of 1971 if the payment were an expenditure under
2 such section.

3 (c) DEADLINE FOR FILING.—A person shall file a re-
4 port required under subsection (a) not later than 7 days
5 after the person first expends the applicable amount of
6 funds described in such subsection, except that in the case
7 of a person who first expends such an amount within 10
8 days of an election, the report shall be filed not later than
9 24 hours after the person first expends such amount. For
10 purposes of the previous sentence, the term “election”
11 shall have the meaning given such term in section 301(1)
12 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

13 (d) PLACE OF SUBMISSION.—Reports required under
14 subsection (a) shall be submitted—

15 (1) to the Clerk of the House of Representa-
16 tives, in the case of a communication involving a
17 candidate for election for Representative in (or Dele-
18 gate or Resident Commissioner to) the Congress;
19 and

20 (2) to the Secretary of the Senate, in the case
21 of a communication involving a candidate for elec-
22 tion for Senator.

23 (e) PENALTIES.—Whoever knowingly fails to—

24 (1) remedy a defective filing within 60 days
25 after notice of such a defect by the Secretary of the

1 Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives;
2 or

3 (2) comply with any other provision of this sec-
4 tion,

5 shall, upon proof of such knowing violation by a prepon-
6 derance of the evidence, be subject to a civil fine of not
7 more than \$50,000, depending on the extent and gravity
8 of the violation.

9 **SEC. 302. REQUIRING MONTHLY FILING OF REPORTS.**

10 (a) **PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES.**—Section
11 304(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
12 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 “(iii) monthly reports, which shall be filed
15 no later than the 20th day after the last day of
16 the month and shall be complete as of the last
17 day of the month, except that, in lieu of filing
18 the reports otherwise due in November and De-
19 cember of the year, a pre-general election report
20 shall be filed in accordance with clause (i), a
21 post-general election report shall be filed in ac-
22 cordance with clause (ii), and a year end report
23 shall be filed no later than January 31 of the
24 following calendar year.”.

1 (b) OTHER POLITICAL COMMITTEES.—Section
2 304(a)(4) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 434(a)(4)) is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 “(4)(A) In a calendar year in which a regularly
5 scheduled general election is held, all political committees
6 other than authorized committees of a candidate shall
7 file—

8 (i) monthly reports, which shall be filed no
9 later than the 20th day after the last day of the
10 month and shall be complete as of the last day of
11 the month, except that, in lieu of filing the reports
12 otherwise due in November and December of the
13 year, a pre-general election report shall be filed in
14 accordance with paragraph clause (ii), a post-general
15 election report shall be filed in accordance with
16 clause (iii), and a year end report shall be filed no
17 later than January 31 of the following calendar
18 year;

19 (ii) a pre-election report, which shall be filed
20 no later than the 12th day before (or posted by reg-
21 istered or certified mail no later than the 15th day
22 before) any election in which the committee makes
23 a contribution to or expenditure on behalf of a can-
24 didate in such election, and which shall be complete
25 as of the 20th day before the election; and

1 amount of contributions or expenditures (as the case may
2 be) reported by the committee in all reports filed with re-
3 spect to the election involved (taking into account the pe-
4 riod covered by the report) is less than \$50,000.”.

5 (b) PROVIDING STANDARDIZED SOFTWARE PACK-
6 AGE.—Section 304(a)(11) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
7 434(a)(11)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
9 paragraph (D); and

10 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
11 lowing new subparagraph:

12 “(C) The Commission shall make available without
13 charge a standardized package of software to enable per-
14 sons filing reports by electronic means to meet the require-
15 ments of this paragraph.”.

16 **SEC. 304. WAIVER OF “BEST EFFORTS” EXCEPTION FOR IN-**
17 **FORMATION ON OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUAL**
18 **CONTRIBUTORS.**

19 Section 302(i) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
20 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(i)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “(i) When the treasurer” and
22 inserting “(i)(1) Except as provided in paragraph
23 (2), when the treasurer”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to
2 information regarding the occupation or the name of the
3 employer of any individual who makes a contribution or
4 contributions aggregating more than \$200 during a cal-
5 endar year (as required to be provided under subsection
6 (c)(3)).”.

7 **TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE**

8 **SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
10 apply with respect to elections occurring after January
11 1999.

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