

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4
5 By: Representative Ray
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7

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1369

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAXIMUM
10 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY THE ARKANSAS ETHICS
11 COMMISSION; AMENDING PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM
12 INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996;
13 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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16 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
17 MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY
18 THE ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION; AMENDING
19 PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM INITIATED
20 ACTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(1)(A), concerning campaign
26 contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and
27 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any candidate for any public office
29 or for any person acting on the candidate's behalf to accept campaign
30 contributions in excess of the maximum campaign contribution ~~level~~ limit
31 established by ~~rule~~ of the Arkansas Ethics Commission under subsection (i) of
32 this section per election from:

- 33 (i) An individual;
- 34 (ii) A political party that meets the definition of a
35 political party under § 7-1-101;
- 36 (iii) A political party that meets the requirements



1 of § 7-7-205;

- 2 (iv) A county political party committee;
- 3 (v) A legislative caucus committee; or
- 4 (vi) An approved political action committee.

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 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(b)(1)(A), concerning campaign
 7 contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and
 8 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

9 (b)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to make a contribution
 10 to a candidate for any public office or to any person acting on the
 11 candidate's behalf, which in the aggregate amount exceeds the maximum
 12 campaign contribution limit established by ~~rule~~ of the Arkansas Ethics
 13 Commission per election.

14
 15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(i), concerning the establishment of
 16 the maximum campaign contribution limit, is amended to read as follows:

17 (i)(1) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall establish the maximum
 18 campaign contribution limit ~~by rule~~ as follows:

19 ~~(1)(A)~~ The adjusted maximum campaign contribution limit
 20 shall be calculated from a base amount of ~~two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ three
 21 thousand three hundred dollars (\$3,300) as of January 1, ~~2015~~ 2025;

22 ~~(2)(B)(i)~~ The ~~contribution limits~~ maximum campaign
 23 contribution limit shall be adjusted ~~at the beginning of~~ each odd-numbered
 24 year in an amount equal to the percentage certified to the Federal Election
 25 Commission by the ~~United States Bureau of Labor Statistics~~ United States
 26 Secretary of Labor under 52 U.S.C. § 30116(c) as existing on January 1, ~~2015~~
 27 2025.

28 (ii) The adjustment under subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i)
 29 of this section shall occur as soon as practicable following the
 30 certification to the Federal Election Commission by the United States
 31 Secretary of Labor, but no later than thirty (30) days following the
 32 certification; and

33 ~~(3)(C)~~ If the amount of the maximum campaign contribution
 34 limit after adjustment under subdivision ~~(i)(2)(i)(1)(B)~~ of this section is
 35 not a multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100), the Arkansas Ethics Commission
 36 shall round the amount to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100);

1 ~~and.~~

2 ~~(4)(2)(A) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall promulgate rules~~
 3 ~~identifying the adjusted contribution limit under this subsection:~~

4 (i) Publish the maximum campaign contribution limit
 5 established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section on the official website
 6 of the Arkansas Ethics Commission and in any other location or format deemed
 7 necessary by the Arkansas Ethics Commission; and

8 (ii) Make the maximum campaign contribution limit
 9 established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section available to the
 10 Secretary of State, elected public officials, candidates, committees under
 11 this subchapter, and the public.

12 (B) The maximum campaign contribution limit established
 13 under subdivision (i)(1) of this section shall be effective upon being
 14 published on the official website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission.

15 (C) The maximum campaign contribution limit established
 16 under subdivision (i)(1) of this section:

17 (i) Is not a rule under §§ 10-3-309 and 25-15-202;
 18 and

19 (ii) Shall not be promulgated under the Arkansas
 20 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

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 22 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(b)(1)(B), concerning the review
 23 and approval of state agency rules, is amended to add an additional
 24 subdivision to read as follows:

25 (vi) An adjustment to the maximum campaign
 26 contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

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 28 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 25-15-202(9)(B), concerning the definition
 29 of "rule" in the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, is amended to add an
 30 additional subdivision to read as follows:

31 (ix) An adjustment to the maximum campaign
 32 contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

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 34 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 35 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that standardizing the laws related
 36 to campaign finance contributes significantly to the public peace, health,

1 and safety of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; that the public peace,
2 health, and safety is negatively affected by unclear campaign finance laws
3 which lead to unintentional violations of the law and inhibit the ability of
4 citizens to exercise their right to political expression; that this act
5 preserves the public peace, health, and safety by ensuring that political
6 donors, political candidates, and elected officials are free from unintended
7 limits of their political expression by providing a more efficient and
8 transparent manner of establishing the state's maximum campaign contribution
9 limit; and that this act also preserves the public peace, health, and safety
10 by eliminating unnecessary rulemaking processes, thereby avoiding the use of
11 public funds in that rulemaking that can be allocated to other pressing needs
12 of the state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act
13 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
14 and safety shall become effective on:

15 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

16 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
17 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
18 bill; or

19 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
20 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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