

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2638

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to lower the maximum amount of contributions a multicandidate political committee may make to a House of Representatives candidate, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 1995

Mr. BLUTE 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 lower the maximum amount of contributions a multicandidate political committee may make to a House of Representatives candidate, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN LIMITATION AMOUNT APPLICA-**
2 **BLE TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY A**
3 **MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE**
4 **TO A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAN-**
5 **DIDATE.**

6 Section 315(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Election Cam-
7 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(2)(A)) is amended
8 by inserting after “\$5,000” the following: “, except that
9 in the case of an election for the office of Representative
10 in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Con-
11 gress, the limitation shall be \$1,000.”.

12 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
13 **GENERAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS IN**
14 **NONELECTION YEARS.**

15 Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
16 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new subsection:

18 “(i) A candidate for the office of Representative in,
19 or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress
20 may not solicit or accept any contribution in an odd-num-
21 bered year with respect to a general election for such office
22 or any primary election relating to the general election.”.

23 **SEC. 3. BAN ON SOFT MONEY.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title III of the Federal Election
25 Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended
26 by adding at the end the following new section:

1 “LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
2 AMOUNTS PAID FOR MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

3 “SEC. 323. (a) Any payment by the national commit-
4 tee of a political party or a State committee of a political
5 party for a mixed political activity—

6 “(1) shall be subject to limitation and reporting
7 under this Act as if such payment were an expendi-
8 ture; and

9 “(2) may be paid only from an account that is
10 subject to the requirements of this Act.

11 “(b) As used in this section, the term ‘mixed political
12 activity’ means, with respect to a payment by the national
13 committee of a political party or a State committee of a
14 political party, an activity, such as a voter registration
15 program, a get-out-the-vote drive, or general political ad-
16 vertising, that is both (1) for the purpose of influencing
17 an election for Federal office, and (2) for any purpose un-
18 related to influencing an election for Federal office.”.

19 (b) REPEAL OF BUILDING FUND EXCEPTION TO THE
20 DEFINITION OF THE TERM “CONTRIBUTION”.—Section
21 301(8)(B) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
22 (2 U.S.C. 431(8)(B)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking out clause (viii); and

24 (2) by redesignating clauses (ix) through (xiv)
25 as clauses (viii) through (xiii), respectively.

1 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION FOR**
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS.**

3 Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
4 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a), as amended by section 2, is fur-
5 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 section:

7 “(j) In such form and manner as the Commission
8 may prescribe, each candidate for the office of Representa-
9 tive in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Con-
10 gress in a general election or a primary election for such
11 office shall be given the opportunity to comply with a vol-
12 untary expenditure limitation of \$600,000 with respect to
13 the general election and any primary election relating to
14 the general election. In the case of a candidate who de-
15 clines to comply with the voluntary limitation, the limita-
16 tion under subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be \$250.”.

17 **SEC. 5. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LIMITA-**
18 **TION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS**
19 **OTHER THAN IN-STATE RESIDENTS.**

20 Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
21 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a), as amended by sections 2 and
22 4, is further amended by adding at the end the following
23 new subsection:

24 “(k)(1) A candidate for the office of Representative
25 in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress
26 may not, with respect to a reporting period for an election,

1 accept contributions from persons other than in-State resi-
2 dents totaling in excess of one-half of the total of contribu-
3 tions accepted with respect to the reporting period.

4 “(2) As used in this subsection, the term ‘in-State
5 resident’ means an individual who resides in the State in
6 which the congressional district involved is located.”.

7 **SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF FRANKED MASS MAILINGS BY**
8 **MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
9 **TIVES IN ELECTION YEARS.**

10 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, or any
11 rule or other authority, a Member of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives may not make any franked mass mailing in
13 an even-numbered year. As used in this section—

14 (1) the term “mass mailing” has the meaning
15 given that term in section 3210 of title 39, United
16 States Code; and

17 (2) the term “Member of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives” means a Representative in, or a Dele-
19 gate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

20 **SEC. 7. ELIMINATION OF CARRY-OVER OF CAMPAIGN**
21 **FUNDS BETWEEN HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
22 **TIVES ELECTIONS.**

23 Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
24 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a), as amended by sections 2, 4,

1 and 5, is further amended by adding at the end the follow-
2 ing new subsection:

3 “(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,
4 if after satisfying all financial obligations with respect to
5 a general election and any primary election relating to the
6 general election, a candidate for the office of Representa-
7 tive in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Con-
8 gress has a campaign account balance, the candidate shall,
9 at the option of the candidate, return the excess funds
10 to contributors, donate the excess funds to charity, or de-
11 posit the excess funds in the Treasury for reduction of
12 the national debt. No excess funds may be carried forward
13 or used for any other purpose.”.

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