

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 356

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to ban activities of political action committees in Federal elections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN 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 ban activities of political action committees in Federal elections.

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. BAN ON ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL ACTION**
4 **COMMITTEES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

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

1 “BAN ON FEDERAL ELECTION ACTIVITIES BY POLITICAL
2 ACTION COMMITTEES

3 “SEC. 323. Notwithstanding any other provision of
4 this Act, no person other than an individual or a political
5 committee may make contributions, solicit or receive con-
6 tributions, or make expenditures for the purpose of influ-
7 encing an election for Federal office.”.

8 (b) DEFINITION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE.—Sec-
9 tion 301(4) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
10 (2 U.S.C. 431(4)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(4) The term ‘political committee’ means—

12 “(A) the principal campaign committee of a
13 candidate;

14 “(B) any national, State, or district committee
15 of a political party, including any subordinate com-
16 mittee thereof;

17 “(C) any local committee of a political party
18 which—

19 “(i) receives contributions aggregating in
20 excess of \$5,000 during a calendar year;

21 “(ii) makes payments exempted from the
22 definition of contribution or expenditure under
23 paragraph (8) or (9) aggregating in excess of
24 \$5,000 during a calendar year; or

1 “(iii) makes contributions or expenditures
2 aggregating in excess of \$1,000 during a cal-
3 endar year; and

4 “(D) any committee jointly established by a
5 principal campaign committee and any committee
6 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) for the pur-
7 pose of conducting joint fundraising activities.”.

8 (c) CANDIDATE’S COMMITTEES.—(1) Section 315(a)
9 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C.
10 441a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following
11 new paragraph:

12 “(9) For the purposes of the limitations provided by
13 paragraphs (1) and (2), any political committee which is
14 established or financed or maintained or controlled by any
15 candidate or Federal officeholder shall be deemed to be
16 an authorized committee of such candidate or office-
17 holder.”.

18 (2) Section 302(e)(3) of the Federal Election Cam-
19 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(e)(3)) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 “(3) No political committee that supports or has sup-
22 ported more than one candidate may be designated as an
23 authorized committee, except that—

24 “(A) a candidate for the office of President
25 nominated by a political party may designate the na-

1 tional committee of such political party as the can-
2 didate's principal campaign committee, but only if
3 that national committee maintains separate books of
4 account with respect to its functions as a principal
5 campaign committee; and

6 “(B) a candidate may designate a political com-
7 mittee established solely for the purpose of joint
8 fundraising by such candidates as an authorized
9 committee.”.

10 (d) RULES APPLICABLE WHEN BAN NOT IN EF-
11 FECT.—For purposes of the Federal Election Campaign
12 Act of 1971, during any period in which the limitation
13 on making contributions under section 323 of that Act (as
14 added by subsection (a)) is not in effect—

15 (1) the amendments made by subsections (a),
16 (b), and (c) shall not be in effect; and

17 (2) the limitation amount under section
18 315(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
19 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(2)(A)) shall be \$1,000.

○