

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 181

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of elections for Members of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. GOSS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of elections for Members of the House of Representatives, 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. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LIM-**
4 **TATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS**
5 **OTHER THAN LOCAL INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS.**

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

1 “(i) A candidate for the office of Representative in,
 2 or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress
 3 may not accept contributions with respect to a reporting
 4 period for an election—

5 “(1) from persons other than individual resi-
 6 dents of the congressional district involved in excess
 7 of 50 percent of the total of contributions accepted;
 8 or

9 “(2) from persons other than individual resi-
 10 dents of the State in which the congressional district
 11 involved is located in excess of 10 percent of the
 12 total of contributions accepted.”.

13 **SEC. 2. REDUCTION IN LIMITATION AMOUNT APPLICABLE**
 14 **TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY A MULTICANDIDATE**
 15 **POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO A HOUSE OF REP-**
 16 **RESENTATIVES CANDIDATE.**

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

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

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

5 “LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
6 AMOUNTS PAID FOR MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

7 “SEC. 323. (a) IN GENERAL.—Any payment by the
8 national committee of a political party or a State commit-
9 tee of a political party for a mixed political activity—

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

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

15 “(b) MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITY DEFINED.—As
16 used in this section, the term ‘mixed political activity’
17 means, with respect to a payment by the national commit-
18 tee of a political party or a State committee of a political
19 party, an activity, such as a voter registration program,
20 a get-out-the-vote drive, or general political advertising,
21 that is both for the purpose of influencing an election for
22 Federal office and for any purpose unrelated to influenc-
23 ing an election for Federal office.”.

24 (b) REPEAL OF BUILDING FUND EXCEPTION TO THE
25 DEFINITION OF THE TERM “CONTRIBUTION”.—Section
26 301(8)(B) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 431(8)(B)) is amended—

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

2 (2) by redesignating clauses (ix) through (xiv)

3 as clauses (viii) through (xiii).

4 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**

5 Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47

6 U.S.C. 315) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

8 (A) by striking “forty-five” and inserting

9 “30”,

10 (B) by striking “sixty” and inserting “45”,

11 and

12 (C) by striking “lowest unit charge of the

13 station for the same class and amount of time

14 for the same period” and insert “lowest charge

15 of the station for the same amount of time for

16 the same period”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as

18 subsections (d) and (e);

19 (3) by inserting immediately after subsection

20 (b) the following new subsection:

21 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a li-

22 censee shall not preempt the use, during any period speci-

23 fied in subsection (b)(1), of a broadcasting station by a

1 legally qualified candidate for public office who has pur-
2 chased and paid for such use pursuant to the provisions
3 of subsection (b)(1).

4 “(2) If a program to be broadcast by a broadcasting
5 station is preempted because of circumstances beyond the
6 control of the broadcasting station, any candidate adver-
7 tising spot scheduled to be broadcast during that program
8 may also be preempted.”; and

9 (4) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-
10 graph (2))—

11 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
12 graph (1),

13 (B) by striking the period at the end of
14 paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”, and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(3) a station’s lowest charge for purposes of
18 paragraph (1)—

19 “(A) with respect to a primary or primary
20 runoff election, is determined for the interval
21 beginning 60 days before such election and end-
22 ing on the date of that election; and

1 “(B) with respect to a general or special
2 election, is determined for the interval begin-
3 ning 90 days before such election and ending on
4 the date of that election.”.

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