

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5281

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide matching funds for candidates in elections for the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2006

Mr. LEACH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide matching funds for candidates in elections for 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Campaign Reform Act
5 of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. MATCHING FUNDS FOR HOUSE CANDIDATES.**

7 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Federal Election Cam-
8 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following new title:

1 **“TITLE V—MATCHING FUNDS**
2 **FOR HOUSE CANDIDATES**

3 **“SEC. 501. AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible House of Representa-
5 tives candidate shall be entitled to receive payments under
6 this title in support of the candidate’s campaign for elec-
7 tion in an amount equal to the amount of qualified con-
8 tributions received by the candidate, but not to exceed the
9 aggregate matching payment limit under subsection (b).

10 “(b) AGGREGATE MATCHING PAYMENT LIMIT FOR
11 CANDIDATE.—The aggregate matching payment limit
12 with respect to an eligible House of Representatives can-
13 didate in an election is \$175,000, subject to the following
14 adjustments:

15 “(1) If any opponent of the candidate who is
16 not an eligible House of Representatives candidate
17 receives contributions with respect to the election in
18 an aggregate amount exceeding \$500,000, the ag-
19 gregate matching payment limit shall be equal to the
20 aggregate amount of contributions received by the
21 opponent.

22 “(2) In the case of an election which is a con-
23 tested primary election (as determined by the Com-
24 mission), if any opponent of the candidate receives
25 contributions in an aggregate amount exceeding

1 \$50,000, the aggregate matching payment limit shall
 2 be increased by \$75,000.

3 “(3) In the case of an election which is a runoff
 4 election, the aggregate matching payment limit shall
 5 be increased by \$50,000.

6 “(c) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTION DEFINED.—In this
 7 section, the term ‘qualified contribution’ means, with re-
 8 spect to a candidate for an election, a contribution—

9 “(1) which is made by an individual residing in
 10 the State in which the candidate seeks election
 11 whose aggregate contributions to the candidate for
 12 the election do not exceed \$500; and

13 “(2) which is in the form of a gift of money
 14 made by a written instrument that identifies the in-
 15 dividual making the contribution.

16 “(d) SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.—All payments made
 17 under this title shall be made from the House of Rep-
 18 resentatives Election Campaign Account described in sec-
 19 tion 503.

20 **“SEC. 502. ELIGIBLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAN-**
 21 **DIDATE DEFINED.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, an ‘eli-
 23 gible House of Representatives candidate’ means a can-
 24 didate for the office of Representative in, or Delegate or
 25 Resident Commissioner to, the Congress who files a state-

1 ment of participation with the Commission in which the
2 candidate certifies each of the following:

3 “(1) In the election cycle, the candidate has re-
4 ceived \$10,000 in contributions from individuals.

5 “(2) The candidate qualifies for the primary or
6 general election ballot.

7 “(3) The candidate has an opponent on the pri-
8 mary or general election ballot.

9 “(4) The candidate will not receive contribu-
10 tions or make expenditures with respect to the elec-
11 tion in excess of—

12 “(A) \$500,000; or

13 “(B) the aggregate matching payment
14 limit for the candidate under section 501(b),
15 whichever is greater.

16 “(5) The candidate agrees to cooperate in the
17 case of any audit by the Commission by furnishing
18 such campaign records and other information as the
19 Commission may require.

20 “(b) REPAYMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.—If an eli-
21 gible House of Representatives candidate receives con-
22 tributions or makes expenditures in excess of the spending
23 limit specified in subsection (a)(4), the candidate shall
24 repay the House of Representatives Election Campaign

1 Account described in section 503 an amount equal to the
2 amounts spent in excess of such limit.

3 **“SEC. 503. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION CAM-**
4 **PAIGN ACCOUNT.**

5 “(a) ACCOUNT.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall main-
7 tain in the Presidential Election Campaign Fund es-
8 tablished by section 9006(a) of the Internal Revenue
9 Code of 1986, in addition to any other accounts
10 maintained under such section, a separate account
11 to be known as the House of Representatives Elec-
12 tion Campaign Account.

13 “(2) AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall deposit in
14 the Account, for use by eligible House of Represent-
15 atives candidates—

16 “(A) the amounts available after the Sec-
17 retary determines that the amounts in the Pres-
18 idential Election Campaign Fund necessary for
19 payments under subtitle H of the Internal Rev-
20 enue Code of 1986 are adequate;

21 “(B) any repayments made under section
22 502(b); and

23 “(C) any amount appropriated pursuant to
24 the supplemental authorization described in
25 paragraph (3).

1 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION.—If the
2 Secretary issues a certification that amounts in the
3 Account will not be adequate to make payments
4 under this title during a fiscal year, there are au-
5 thorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for
6 deposit in the Account such sums as may be nec-
7 essary to ensure that amounts in the Account will be
8 adequate to make such payments (as provided by the
9 Secretary in the certification).

10 “(4) AVAILABILITY.—All amounts in the Ac-
11 count shall remain available without fiscal year limi-
12 tation.

13 “(b) CERTIFICATION AND PAYMENT.—

14 “(1) CERTIFICATION.—Except as provided in
15 paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than 5 days after
16 receiving a request for payment under this title from
17 an eligible House of Representatives candidate, the
18 Commission shall submit to the Secretary of the
19 Treasury a certification for payment of the amount
20 to which a candidate is entitled under section 501.
21 Upon receipt of such a certification, the Secretary
22 shall promptly pay to the candidate from the House
23 of Representatives Election Campaign Account
24 maintained pursuant to subsection (a) the amount
25 certified by the Commission.

1 “(2) PAYMENTS.—The initial payment under
2 this section to an eligible candidate shall be \$10,000.

3 All payments shall be—

4 “(A) made not later than 48 hours after
5 certification under paragraph (1); and

6 “(B) subject to proportional reduction in
7 the case of an insufficient balance in the Ac-
8 count maintained pursuant to subsection (a).

9 “(3) INCORRECT REQUEST.—If the Commission
10 determines that any portion of a request is incorrect,
11 the Commission shall withhold the certification for
12 that portion only and inform the candidate as to
13 how the candidate may correct the request.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occur-
16 ring after December 2006.

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