

House BILL NO. 808

INTRODUCED BY COMMITTEE ON RULES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT MAKING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND PERMANENT AND PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE FOR CHAPTER 49 OF TITLE 23, R.C.M. 1947; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-4901 AND 23-4904, R.C.M. 1947; AND REPEALING SECTION 7, CHAPTER 263, LAWS OF 1974."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 23-4901, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

~~"23-4901. Purpose Short title. It is the purpose of this act to allow the conduct of an experiment in the public financing of political campaigns in this state, to determine public reaction to grass roots participation in campaign financing through a designation by a taxpayer of one dollar (\$1) of his tax liability to a campaign fund; and to allow legislative review of public campaign financing based upon the results of the limited experiment authorized by this act. This chapter may be cited as "The Public Campaign Fund Act."~~

Section 2. Section 23-4904, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"23-4904. Election public campaign fund. (1) There is

~~an election a public campaign fund within the earmarked revenue fund provided for in section 79-410.~~

~~(2) All monies designated under section 2 [23-4902] of this act shall be deposited in the fund.~~

~~(3) Five (5) months before the general election in a gubernatorial election year all monies in the fund shall be paid over in equal amounts to the treasurer of each political party, to be spent only for the legitimate campaign expenses of the gubernatorial candidate."~~

Section 3. Repealer. Section 7, Chapter 263, Laws of 1974, is repealed.

-End-

April 14, 1977

SENATE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

That House Bill No. 808 be amended as follows:

1. Amend title, line 7.

Following: "23-4901"

Strike: "and"

Insert: ", 23-4902,"

Following: "23-4904,"

Insert: "and 23-4906,"

2. Amend page 1, section 1, line 23.

Following: line 22

Insert: "Section 2. Section 23-4902, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"23-4902. Definitions. As used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Fund" means the election campaign fund established in section 4 (23-4904) of this act.

(2) "Political party" is a party whose candidate for governor in the last general election received five per cent (5%) or more of the total votes cast for that office as verified by the secretary of state.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue provided for in Title 82A, chapter 18.

(4) "Candidate" means an individual who has been nominated by a political party for election to ~~the office of governor of public~~ office in this state.

(5) "Individual" means a natural person." "

Renumber: subsequent section

3. Amend page 2, section 2, line 9.

Following: "of"

Strike: "the gubernatorial candidate"

Insert: "candidates for public offices which offices have been designated by the legislature"

4. Amend page 2, section 2, line 10.

Following: line 9

Insert: "Section 4. Section 23-4906, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"23-4906. Penalties for violation. The use of moneys from the fund by anyone for any purpose other than the legitimate campaign expenses of a candidate for ~~governor~~ a designated public office is an offense and is punishable by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both." "

Renumber: subsequent section

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1 LEGISLATURE."

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