

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 50 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, PASHINSKI, THOMAS, BRIGGS, GALLOWAY, MURT, FREEMAN, O'BRIEN, SCHLOSSBERG, KAVULICH, GIBBONS, D. MILLER, MAHONEY, HARHAI, D. COSTA, MULLERY, COHEN, FRANKEL, McNEILL, DeLUCA, GOODMAN AND DEAN, MARCH 18, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 18, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled  
 2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,  
 3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,  
 4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating  
 5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;  
 6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,  
 7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;  
 8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,  
 9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and  
 10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to  
 11 elections," in primary and election expenses, providing for  
 12 limitations on certain contributions.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known  
 16 as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by adding a  
 17 section to read:

18 Section 1627.1. Limitations on Certain Contributions.--

19 (a) No individual shall make contributions:

20 (1) To a candidate, or the candidate's political committee,  
 21 which, in the aggregate, exceed two thousand seven hundred  
 22 dollars (\$2,700) per election.

1 (2) To a single political action committee which, in the  
2 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
3 year.

4 (3) To a single political party committee which, in the  
5 aggregate, exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per calendar  
6 year.

7 (b) No political action committee with more than 50  
8 contributors and which has made contributions to five or more  
9 candidates for public office of this Commonwealth shall make  
10 contributions:

11 (1) To a candidate, or the candidate's political committee,  
12 which, in the aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000)  
13 per election.

14 (2) To a single political action committee which, in the  
15 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
16 year.

17 (3) To a single political party committee which, in the  
18 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
19 year.

20 (c) Except for political action committees under subsection  
21 (b), no political action committee shall make contributions:

22 (1) To a candidate, or the candidate's political committee,  
23 which, in the aggregate, exceed two thousand six hundred dollars  
24 (\$2,600) per election.

25 (2) To a single political action committee which, in the  
26 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
27 year.

28 (3) To a single political party committee which, in the  
29 aggregate, exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per calendar  
30 year.

1 (d) No political party committee shall make contributions:

2 (1) To a candidate, or the candidate's political committee,  
3 which, in the aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000)  
4 per election.

5 (2) To a single political action committee which, in the  
6 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
7 year.

8 (e) No candidate, or the candidate's political committee,  
9 shall make contributions:

10 (1) To another candidate which, in the aggregate, exceed two  
11 thousand dollars (\$2,000) per election.

12 (2) To a single political action committee which, in the  
13 aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per calendar  
14 year.

15 (f) No candidate, political action committee or political  
16 party committee shall knowingly accept contributions in  
17 violation of any limitation imposed on contributions under this  
18 section.

19 (g) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to a  
20 contribution made for the purpose of influencing any election to  
21 all public offices of the Commonwealth except Federal offices.

22 (h) Aggregate contributions shall include the value of in-  
23 kind contributions.

24 (i) For purposes of this section, any contribution made to a  
25 candidate in a year other than the calendar year in which the  
26 election is held with respect to which the contribution is made  
27 shall be considered to be made for the next election to be held.

28 (j) (1) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall adjust the  
29 limitation on contributions under subsection (a)(1) and (c)(1)  
30 for inflation in each odd-numbered year beginning with the first

1 odd-numbered year after the end of the year during which this  
2 section takes effect. The adjustment shall be equal to the  
3 adjustment process applicable to contributions made by  
4 individuals to candidates for Federal office under section  
5 315(c) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (Public Law  
6 92-225, 52 U.S.C. § 30116 on the effective date of this section.

7 (2) Each adjustment shall remain in effect for the two-year  
8 period beginning the first day following the date of the general  
9 election in the even-numbered year preceding the adjustment and  
10 ending on the date of the general election in the even-numbered  
11 year following the adjustment.

12 (3) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall publish the  
13 adjustment as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

14 (k) As used in this section, "political party committee"  
15 shall mean a political committee of any state, county, city,  
16 borough, township, ward or other regularly constituted party  
17 committee of any political party or political body.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2016, or  
19 immediately, whichever is later.