

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 270 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/20/25 S3/3/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1369

By: Representative Ray

By: Senator J. Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY THE ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION; AMENDING PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY THE ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION; AMENDING PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM INITIATED ACTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(1)(A), concerning campaign contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any candidate for any public office or for any person acting on the candidate's behalf to accept campaign contributions in excess of the maximum campaign contribution ~~level~~ limit established by ~~rule of~~ the Arkansas Ethics Commission under subsection (i) of this section per election from:

- (i) An individual;
- (ii) A political party that meets the definition of a political party under § 7-1-101;
- (iii) A political party that meets the requirements



of § 7-7-205;

- (iv) A county political party committee;
- (v) A legislative caucus committee; or
- (vi) An approved political action committee.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(b)(1)(A), concerning campaign contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to make a contribution to a candidate for any public office or to any person acting on the candidate's behalf, which in the aggregate amount exceeds the maximum campaign contribution limit established by ~~rule~~ of the Arkansas Ethics Commission per election.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(i), concerning the establishment of the maximum campaign contribution limit, is amended to read as follows:

(i)(1) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall establish the maximum campaign contribution limit ~~by rule~~ as follows:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) The adjusted maximum campaign contribution limit shall be calculated from a base amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) as of January 1, 2015;

~~(2)(B)(i)~~ (B)(i) The ~~contribution limit~~ maximum campaign contribution limit shall be adjusted ~~at the beginning of~~ each odd-numbered year in an amount equal to the percentage certified to the Federal Election Commission by the ~~United States Bureau of Labor Statistics~~ United States Secretary of Labor under 52 U.S.C. § 30116(c) as existing on January 1, ~~2015+~~ 2025.

(ii) The adjustment under subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall occur as soon as practicable following the certification to the Federal Election Commission by the United States Secretary of Labor, but no later than the later of:

(a) Thirty (30) days following the certification; or

(b) The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Ethics Commission.

~~(3)(C)~~ (C) If the amount of the maximum campaign contribution

limit after adjustment under subdivision ~~(i)(2)~~(i)(1)(B) of this section is not a multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100), the Arkansas Ethics Commission shall round the amount to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100)~~+~~ and.

~~(4)(2)(A)~~ The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall ~~promulgate rules identifying the adjusted contribution limit under this subsection:~~

(i) Publish the maximum campaign contribution limit established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section on the official website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission and in any other location or format deemed necessary by the Arkansas Ethics Commission; and

(ii) Make the maximum campaign contribution limit established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section available to the Secretary of State, elected public officials, candidates, committees under this subchapter, and the public.

(B) The maximum campaign contribution limit established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section shall be:

(i) Effective upon being published upon the official website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission; and

(ii) Retroactive to the date of the certification to the Federal Election Commission by the United States Secretary of Labor under subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i) of this section.

(C) The maximum campaign contribution limit established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section:

(i) Is not a rule under §§ 10-3-309 and 25-15-202;
and

(ii) Shall not be promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(b)(1)(B), concerning the review and approval of state agency rules, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(vi) An adjustment to the maximum campaign contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 25-15-202(9)(B), concerning the definition of "rule" in the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, is amended to add an

additional subdivision to read as follows:

(ix) An adjustment to the maximum campaign contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that standardizing the laws related to campaign finance contributes significantly to the public peace, health, and safety of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; that the public peace, health, and safety is negatively affected by unclear campaign finance laws which lead to unintentional violations of the law and inhibit the ability of citizens to exercise their right to political expression; that this act preserves the public peace, health, and safety by ensuring that political donors, political candidates, and elected officials are free from unintended limits of their political expression by providing a more efficient and transparent manner of establishing the state's maximum campaign contribution limit; and that this act also preserves the public peace, health, and safety by eliminating unnecessary rulemaking processes, thereby avoiding the use of public funds in that rulemaking that can be allocated to other pressing needs of the state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Ray

APPROVED: 3/12/25