

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1598

By: Representative Ray

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE CANDIDATE TO ANOTHER CANDIDATE; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO MODIFY THE USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, SECTION 28; TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, SECTION 28; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 28(a)(1)(A), concerning contributions to campaigns, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(vii) A candidate.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 28(a)(1)(B), concerning contributions to campaigns, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(vii) A candidate.



SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 28(a), concerning contributions, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3)(A) A candidate may use his or her own campaign funds to contribute to another candidate in an amount up to the limit established by rule of the Arkansas Ethics Commission.

(B) Any contributions made by a candidate under subsection (a) of this section shall not be considered as using campaign funds as personal income.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 28(b), concerning contributions, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) It is unlawful for an individual, a political party that meets the definition of a political party under Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, a political party that meets the requirements of Arkansas Code § 7-7-205, a county political party committee, a legislative caucus committee, a candidate, or an approved political action committee to make a contribution to a candidate for public office, or to a person acting on the candidate's behalf, that in the aggregate exceeds the maximum amount allowed by law.

(2) The following entities may make a contribution or contributions up to the maximum amount allowed by law to a candidate, whether opposed or unopposed, for each election:

(A) An individual;

(B) A political party that meets the definition of a political party under Arkansas Code § 7-1-101;

(C) A political party that meets the requirements of Arkansas Code § 7-7-205;

(D) A county political party committee;

(E) A legislative caucus committee; ~~or~~

(F) An approved political action committee; or

(G) A candidate.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(1)(A), concerning contributions, limitations, acceptance or solicitation, use as personal income, and disposition, effective January 1, 2023, and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 from 1996, is amended to add an additional

subdivision to read as follows:

(vii) A candidate.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(1)(B), concerning contributions, limitations, acceptance or solicitation, use as personal income, and disposition, effective January 1, 2023, and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 from 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(B) It shall be unlawful for a candidate for a public office or for any person acting on the candidate's behalf to accept a campaign contribution from a prospective contributor other than those under subdivisions ~~(a)(1)(A)(i)-(vi)~~(a)(1)(A)(i)-(vii) of this section.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(2), concerning contributions, limitations, acceptance or solicitation, use as personal income, and disposition, effective January 1, 2023, and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 from 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(2) A candidate may accept a campaign contribution or contributions up to the maximum amount from any prospective contributor under subdivisions ~~(a)(1)(A)(i)-(vi)~~(a)(1)(A)(i)-(vii) of this section for each election, whether opposed or unopposed.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a), concerning contributions, limitations, acceptance or solicitation, use as personal income, and disposition, effective January 1, 2023, and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 from 1996, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3)(A) A candidate may use his or her own campaign funds to contribute to another candidate in an amount up to the limit established by rule of the Arkansas Ethics Commission under subdivision (i) of this section.

(B) Contributions made by a candidate under subsection (a) of this section shall not be considered as using campaign funds as personal income.