

1 S.120

2 Introduced by Senator Pollina

3 Referred to Committee on Government Operations

4 Date: March 15, 2017

5 Subject: Elections; campaign finance; contribution limitations; single sources;  
6 corporations

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to limit  
8 corporate single-source contributions to no more than five percent of those  
9 permitted of other single sources.

10 ~~An act relating to limiting corporate campaign contributions.~~

*An act relating to the persons authorized to make contributions to  
candidates and political parties*

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 ~~Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2941 is amended to read:~~

13 § 2941. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

14 (a) ~~In~~ Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in any election  
15 cycle:

16 (1)(A) A candidate for State Representative or for local office shall not  
17 accept contributions totaling more than:

18 (i) \$1,000.00 from a single source; or

19 ~~or~~



1 ~~(d)(1) If a single source is a corporation, that single source shall be limited~~  
2 ~~to making a contribution equal to no more than five percent of the amount~~  
3 ~~otherwise permitted under this section.~~

4 (2) As used in this subsection, “corporation” means any separately  
5 incorporated entity, other than a labor organization.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 ~~This act shall take effect on December 16, 2018.~~

*Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2941 is amended to read:*

*§ 2941. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS*

*(a) In any election cycle:*

*(1)(A) A candidate for State Representative or for local office shall not accept contributions totaling more than:*

- (i) \$1,000.00 from a single source; or*
- (ii) \$1,000.00 from a political committee.*

*(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.*

*(2)(A) A candidate for State Senator or for county office shall not accept contributions totaling more than:*

- (i) \$1,500.00 from a single source; or*
- (ii) \$1,500.00 from a political committee.*

*(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.*

*(3)(A) A candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General shall not accept contributions totaling more than:*

- (i) \$4,000.00 from a single source; or*
- (ii) \$4,000.00 from a political committee.*

*(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.*

*(4) A political committee shall not accept contributions totaling more than:*

- (A) \$4,000.00 from a single source;*
- (B) \$4,000.00 from a political committee; or*
- (C) \$4,000.00 from a political party.*

*(5) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than:*

- (A) \$10,000.00 from a single source;*
- (B) \$10,000.00 from a political committee; or*
- (C) \$60,000.00 from a political party.*

*(6) [Repealed.]*

*(b) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not contribute more to a candidate, political committee, or political party than the candidate, political committee, or political party is permitted to accept under this section.*

~~*(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, only an individual, a political committee, or a political party may make a contribution to a candidate or to a political party.*~~

~~*(2) A candidate or a political party shall not accept a contribution from any person other than those permitted to make such a contribution under subdivision (1) of this subsection.*~~

*(c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, only an individual, a political committee, or a political party may make a contribution to a candidate or to a political party.*

*(B) In accordance with the provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), an individual may make a contribution as follows, which in either case shall be considered a contribution from the individual:*

*(i) in the individual's capacity as an unincorporated sole proprietorship; or*

*(ii) from his or her revocable trust, if the individual is a named trustee.*

*(2) A candidate or a political party shall not accept a contribution from any person other than those permitted to make such a contribution under subdivision (1) of this subsection.*

*(d) As used in this section:*

*(1) For a candidate described in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section, an “election cycle” means:*

*(A) in the case of a general or local election, the period that begins 38 days after the previous general or local election for the office and ends 38 days after the general or local election for the office for which that person is a candidate, and includes any primary or run-off election related to that general or local election; or*

*(B) in the case of a special election, the period that begins on the date the special election for the office was ordered and ends 38 days after that special election, and includes any special primary or run-off election related to that special election.*

*(2) For a political committee, political party, or single source described in subdivisions (4)-(6) of subsection (a), an “election cycle” means a two-year general election cycle.*

*Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE*

*This act shall take effect on December 14, 2018.*