

1 H.281

2 Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro,
3 Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Colburn of
4 Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester,
5 Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Ralph of Hartland

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Elections; campaign finance; contribution limitations; contributions to
9 candidates and political parties; authorized contributors

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide that
11 only the following persons may make a contribution to a candidate or to a
12 political party: individuals, political committees, and political parties.

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

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

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

17 § 2941. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

18 (a) In any election cycle:

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

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

2 (ii) \$1,000.00 from a political committee.

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

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

7 (i) \$1,500.00 from a single source; or

8 (ii) \$1,500.00 from a political committee.

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

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

14 (i) \$4,000.00 from a single source; or

15 (ii) \$4,000.00 from a political committee.

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

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

20 (A) \$4,000.00 from a single source;

21 (B) \$4,000.00 from a political committee; or

1 (C) \$4,000.00 from a political party.

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

3 (A) \$10,000.00 from a single source;

4 (B) \$10,000.00 from a political committee; or

5 (C) \$60,000.00 from a political party.

6 (6) [Repealed.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (d) As used in this section:

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

7 (A) in the case of a general or local election, the period that begins
8 38 days after the previous general or local election for the office and ends
9 38 days after the general or local election for the office for which that person is
10 a candidate, and includes any primary or ~~run-off~~ runoff election related to that
11 general or local election; or

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

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

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on December 11, 2020.