



**H.B. 79**  
124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Redfern, Barnes, Seitz, Distel, Metelsky, Hartnett, R. Miller, Allen, Jones, Patton, Britton, DePiero, Boccieri, Seaver, Barrett, Driehaus, Perry, Rhine**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Limits aggregate political contributions to campaign committees and other entities during specified periods by individuals aged 11 through 17 to \$250.
- Prohibits political contributions by individuals under the age of 11.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

Existing law generally requires that campaign committees and other partisan political entities file a statement of contributions received and expenditures made during specified reporting periods with the Secretary of State.<sup>1</sup> The bill adds the age of each individual who is a contributor to the items that must be included in the statement. (R.C. 3517.10(A) and (B)(4)(g).)

Existing law limits the amounts that an individual may contribute in any primary election period, general election period, or calendar year (whichever applies) to campaign committees and other partisan political entities and prohibits those entities from accepting amounts exceeding the limits. The bill (1) applies the existing limits, which range from \$2,500 to \$15,000, to individuals aged 18 and older, (2) sets a limit of \$250 in aggregate contributions to a campaign committee or other entity from individuals aged 11 through 17, and (3) prohibits all contributions by, and acceptance of all contributions from, individuals under the age of 11. (R.C. 3517.102(B)(1), (C)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7).)

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<sup>1</sup> *The other entities include political action committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, and political contributing entities. Certain campaign committees also must file certain monthly statements of contributions received and certain two-business-day statements of contributions received.*

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## COMMENT

The constitutionality of prohibiting campaign contributions based upon age is uncertain. The United States Supreme Court, in *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 22 (1976), stated that "[m]aking a contribution, like joining a political party, serves to affiliate a person with a candidate. In addition, it enables like-minded persons to pool their resources in furtherance of common political goals." In the same case, however, the Court acknowledged that the right of political association may be abridged if a state demonstrates a sufficiently important interest and the restriction is narrowly tailored to meet that interest. For example, the Court has upheld broad restrictions against partisan political association by federal employees who administer the law, in order to avoid the appearance of improper influence. *CSC v. Letter Carriers*, 413 U.S. 548 (1973).

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-07-01	p. 142

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