



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

H.B. 486

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Milkovich, Goyal

BILL SUMMARY

- Increases the minimum age at which an individual may make a political contribution from seven to 18, or 17 if the individual will be 18 on or before the day of the next general election.
- Reduces the value of contributions an individual, a political action committee, a campaign committee, a political party, a state candidate fund of a state or county political party, a legislative campaign fund, and a political contributing entity may make to any one political entity, and similarly reduces the value of contributions that a political entity may accept from those contributors.
- Reduces the total amount of contributions a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept from any one or a combination of state candidate funds of county political parties.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Minimum age to make a political contribution

The bill specifies that the minimum age to make a campaign contribution is 18, or 17 if the individual will be 18 on or before the day of the next general election (see **COMMENT**). Under continuing law, no political entity may knowingly accept a contribution from an individual who is under the minimum contribution age.¹ Current law prohibits individuals under the age of seven from making campaign contributions.²

¹ R.C. 3517.102(C).

² R.C. 3517.102(A)(10).

Limits on the amount of campaign contributions

The bill decreases the maximum permitted amounts of contributions to any one political entity by an individual, a political action committee, a campaign committee, a political party, a state candidate fund of a state or county political party, a legislative campaign fund, and a political contributing entity. The bill reduces, by the same amounts, the maximum amounts that political entities may accept.

The following tables illustrate the changes the bill makes to the amounts various political entities may contribute and likewise the amounts political entities may accept from each contributor.

Contributions by an individual

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, Senate candidate, or House candidate in a primary or general election period ³	\$2,400	\$10,000
To a county political party of the county in which the individual's designated Ohio residence is located for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year ⁴	\$2,400	\$10,000
To any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year ⁵	\$5,000	\$15,000
To any state political party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year ⁶	\$10,000	\$30,000
To any one political action committee or political contributing entity in a calendar year ⁷	\$2,400	\$10,000

³ R.C. 3517.102(B)(1)(a)(i) to (iii), (C)(1)(a)(ii), (C)(2)(a)(ii), and (C)(3)(a)(ii).

⁴ R.C. 3517.102(B)(1)(a)(iv) and (C)(4)(a)(i).

⁵ R.C. 3517.102(B)(1)(a)(v) and (C)(5)(b).

⁶ R.C. 3517.102(B)(1)(a)(vi) and (C)(4)(b)(ii).

⁷ R.C. 3517.102(B)(1)(a)(vii) and (viii) and (C)(7)(a)(ii).

Contributions by a political action committee or a political contributing entity

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, Senate candidate, or House candidate in a primary or general election period ⁸	\$5,000	\$10,000
To any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year ⁹	\$5,000	\$15,000
To any state political party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year ¹⁰	\$10,000	\$30,000
To any one political action committee or political contributing entity that is not affiliated with the contributing political action committee or political contributing entity in a calendar year ¹¹	\$5,000	\$10,000

Contributions by a campaign committee

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, Senate candidate, or House candidate in a primary or general election period ¹²	\$5,000	\$10,000
To any one political action committee or political contributing entity in a calendar year ¹³	\$5,000	\$10,000

⁸ R.C. 3517.102(B)(2)(a)(i) to (iii), (B)(7)(a)(i) to (iii), (C)(1)(a)(ii), (C)(2)(a)(ii), and (C)(3)(a)(ii).

⁹ R.C. 3517.102(B)(2)(a)(iv), (B)(7)(a)(iv), and (C)(5)(b).

¹⁰ R.C. 3517.102(B)(2)(a)(v), (B)(7)(a)(v), and (C)(4)(b)(ii).

¹¹ R.C. 3517.102(B)(2)(a)(vi), (B)(7)(a)(vi), and (C)(7)(b).

¹² R.C. 3517.102(B)(3)(a) to (c), (C)(1)(a)(ii), (C)(2)(a)(ii), and (C)(3)(a)(ii).

¹³ R.C. 3517.102(B)(3)(d) and (e) and (C)(7)(a)(ii).

Contributions by a campaign committee that is not a designated state campaign committee

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To any one state political party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year ¹⁴	\$10,000	\$30,000
To any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year ¹⁵	\$5,000	\$15,000
To any one county political party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year ¹⁶	\$5,000	\$10,000

Contributions by a political party

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To any one political action committee or political contributing entity in a calendar year ¹⁷	\$5,000	\$10,000

¹⁴ R.C. 3517.102(B)(5)(a)(i) and (C)(4)(b)(ii).

¹⁵ R.C. 3517.102(B)(5)(a)(ii) and (C)(5)(b).

¹⁶ R.C. 3517.102(B)(5)(a)(iii).

¹⁷ R.C. 3517.102(B)(4)(a) and (C)(7)(a)(ii).

Contributions by a state candidate fund of a county political party other than contributions to a designated state campaign committee

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate in a primary or general election period ¹⁸	\$94,000	\$250,000
To the campaign committee of any one Senate or House candidate in a primary or general election period ¹⁹	\$5,000	\$10,000

Transfers or contributions of cash or cash equivalents by a state candidate fund of a state or county political party to a designated state campaign committee

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted transfer or contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted transfer or contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate in a primary or general election period ²⁰	\$200,000	\$500,000
To the campaign committee of any one Senate candidate in a primary or general election period ²¹	\$42,000	\$100,000
To the campaign committee of any one House candidate in a primary or general election period ²²	\$21,000	\$50,000

¹⁸ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(a)(i).

¹⁹ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(a)(ii) and (iii), (C)(2)(a)(ii), and (C)(3)(a)(ii).

²⁰ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(i)(I) and (C)(6)(a)(i).

²¹ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(i)(II), (C)(6)(a)(ii), and (C)(6)(c)(i).

²² R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(i)(III), (C)(6)(a)(iii), and (C)(6)(c)(ii).

Transfer or contributions of cash or cash equivalents by a legislative campaign fund to a designated state campaign committee

Type of contribution	Maximum permitted transfer or contribution under the bill	Maximum permitted transfer or contribution under existing law
To the campaign committee of any one Senate candidate in a primary election period ²³	\$21,000	\$50,000
To the campaign committee of any one Senate candidate in a general election period ²⁴	\$42,000	\$100,000
To the campaign committee of any one House candidate in a primary election period ²⁵	\$10,000	\$25,000
To the campaign committee of any one House candidate in a general election period ²⁶	\$21,000	\$50,000

Limit on aggregate contributions that a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept

The bill reduces the total amount of money a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept from any one or a combination of state candidate funds of county political parties to \$94,000 in a primary or general election period. Under current law, the maximum aggregate contribution is \$250,000.²⁷

²³ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(ii)(I) and (C)(6)(b)(i).

²⁴ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(ii)(I) and (C)(6)(b)(i).

²⁵ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(ii)(II) and (C)(6)(b)(ii).

²⁶ R.C. 3517.102(B)(6)(b)(ii)(II) and (C)(6)(b)(ii).

²⁷ R.C. 3517.102(C)(1)(a)(iii).

COMMENT

The bill prohibits political entities from accepting campaign contributions from individuals who are under the age of 18, or 17 if the individual will be 18 on or before the day of the next general election. The United States Supreme Court held a similar federal law prohibiting campaign contributions by minors unconstitutional on the grounds that it violated the minors' First Amendment freedoms of expression and association.²⁸

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-16-12

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²⁸ *McConnell v. FEC*, 540 U.S. 93 (2003).

