

STATE OF NEW YORK

4729

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 10, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BIAGGI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to eliminating family contribution limits to candidates for election

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 14-114 of the election law, as
2 amended by section 3 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 1. The following limitations apply to all contributions to candidates
5 for election to any public office or for nomination for any such office,
6 or for election to any party positions, and to all contributions to
7 political committees working directly or indirectly with any candidate
8 to aid or participate in such candidate's nomination or election, other
9 than any contributions to any party committee or constituted committee:

10 a. In any election for a public office to be voted on by the voters of
11 the entire state, or for nomination to any such office, no contributor
12 may make a contribution to any candidate or political committee, partic-
13 ipating in the state's public campaign financing system pursuant to
14 title two of this article and no such candidate or political committee
15 may accept any contribution from any contributor, which is in the aggre-
16 gate amount greater than eighteen thousand dollars divided equally among
17 the primary and general election in an election cycle[~~, provided howev-~~
18 ~~er, that the maximum amount which may be so contributed or accepted, in~~
19 ~~the aggregate, from any candidate's child, parent, grandparent, brother~~
20 ~~and sister, and the spouse of any such persons, shall not exceed in the~~
21 ~~case of any nomination to public office an amount equivalent to the~~
22 ~~product of the number of enrolled voters in the candidate's party in the~~
23 ~~state, excluding voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.025, and in~~
24 ~~the case of any election for a public office, an amount equivalent to~~

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD08562-01-1

~~1 the product of the number of registered voters in the state excluding
2 voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.025].~~

3 b. In any other election for party position or for election to a
4 public office or for nomination for any such office, no contributor may
5 make a contribution to any candidate or political committee participat-
6 ing in the state's public campaign financing system pursuant to title
7 two of this article and no such candidate or political committee may
8 accept any contribution from any contributor, which is in the aggregate
9 amount greater than election for party position, or for nomination to
10 public office, the product of the total number of enrolled voters in the
11 candidate's party in the district in which he is a candidate, excluding
12 voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.05, and (ii) in the case of
13 any election for a public office, the product of the total number of
14 registered voters in the district, excluding voters in inactive status,
15 multiplied by \$.05, however in the case of a nomination within the city
16 of New York for the office of mayor, public advocate or comptroller,
17 such amount shall be not less than four thousand dollars nor more than
18 twelve thousand dollars as increased or decreased by the cost of living
19 adjustment described in paragraph c of this subdivision; in the case of
20 an election within the city of New York for the office of mayor, public
21 advocate or comptroller, twenty-five thousand dollars as increased or
22 decreased by the cost of living adjustment described in paragraph c of
23 this subdivision; in the case of a nomination or election for state
24 senator, ten thousand dollars, divided equally among the primary and
25 general election in an election cycle; in the case of an election or
26 nomination for a member of the assembly, six thousand dollars, divided
27 equally among the primary and general election in an election cycle[
28 ~~provided however, that the maximum amount which may be so contributed or
29 accepted, in the aggregate, from any candidate's child, parent, grand-
30 parent, brother and sister, and the spouse of any such persons, shall
31 not exceed in the case of any election for party position or nomination
32 for public office an amount equivalent to the number of enrolled voters
33 in the candidate's party in the district in which he is a candidate,
34 excluding voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.25 and in the case
35 of any election to public office, an amount equivalent to the number of
36 registered voters in the district, excluding voters in inactive status,
37 multiplied by \$.25; or twelve hundred fifty dollars, whichever is great-
38 er, or in the case of a nomination or election of a state senator, twen-
39 ty thousand dollars, whichever is greater, or in the case of a nomi-
40 nation or election of a member of the assembly twelve thousand five
41 hundred dollars, whichever is greater, but in no event shall any such
42 maximum exceed one hundred thousand dollars].~~

43 c. In any election for a public office to be voted on by the voters of
44 the entire state, or for nomination to any such office, no contributor
45 may make a contribution to any candidate or political committee in
46 connection with a candidate who is not a participating candidate as
47 defined in subdivision fourteen of section 14-200-a of this article, and
48 no such candidate or political committee may accept any contribution
49 from any contributor, which is in the aggregate amount greater than
50 eighteen thousand dollars, divided equally among the primary and general
51 election in an election cycle[
52 ~~provided however, that the maximum
53 amount which may be so contributed or accepted, in the aggregate, from
54 any candidate's child, parent, grandparent, brother and sister, and the
55 spouse of any such persons, shall not exceed in the case of any nomi-
56 nation to public office an amount equivalent to the product of the
number of enrolled voters in the candidate's party in the state, exclud-~~

~~ing voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.025, and in the case of any election for a public office, an amount equivalent to the product of the number of registered voters in the state, excluding voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$.025].~~

d. In any nomination or election of a candidate who is not a participating candidate for state senator, ten thousand dollars, divided equally among the primary and general election in an election cycle; in the case of an election or nomination for a member of the assembly, six thousand dollars, divided equally among the primary and general election in an election cycle.

e.(1) At the beginning of each fourth calendar year, commencing in nineteen hundred ninety-five, the state board shall determine the percentage of the difference between the most recent available monthly consumer price index for all urban consumers published by the United States bureau of labor statistics and such consumer price index published for the same month four years previously. The amount of each contribution limit fixed in this subdivision shall be adjusted by the amount of such percentage difference to the closest one hundred dollars by the state board which, not later than the first day of February in each such year, shall issue a regulation publishing the amount of each such contribution limit. Each contribution limit as so adjusted shall be the contribution limit in effect for any election held before the next such adjustment.

(2) Provided, however, that such adjustments shall not occur for candidates seeking statewide office, or the position of state senator or member of the assembly, whether such candidate does or does not participate in the public finance program established pursuant to title two of this article.

f. Notwithstanding any other contribution limit in this section, participating candidates as defined in subdivision fourteen of section 14-200-a of this article may contribute, out of their own money, three times the applicable contribution limit to their own authorized committee.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section 3 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, takes effect.