STATE OF NEW YORK

11518

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2026

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Lasher) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to campaign contribution and expenditure limitations

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

Section 1. Article 14 of the election law is amended by adding a new title 3 to read as follows:

TITLE III

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS

Section 14-300. Legislative findings and intent.
14-301. Definitions.
14-302. Aggregate contribution and expenditure limits.
14-303. Contribution and expenditure limits from political committees.
14-304. Corporate contribution limits to independent expenditure committees.
14-305. Severability.

§ 14-300. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that the Supreme Court's decisions in Citizens United v. FEC, 558 US. 310 (2010), McCutcheon v FEC, 572 U.S. 185 (2014), Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), and other campaign finance cases are wrongly decided. The legislature finds that the U.S. Constitution embodies the principle of democracy, the idea that all citizens are entitled to participate in self-government as political equals and that, with Citizens United and the other cases, the Court contravened this fundamental constitutional guarantee. The legislature finds that Citizens United and the other cases empower wealthy special interests to monopolize political discourse at the expense of the public; unconstitutionally disable the legislature from taking common-sense steps to reduce the appearance and reality of corruption, which includes undue access to and influence over government officials; and give rise to a distrust in government and citizen apathy that undermines the democratic operation of the political process.

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

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The legislature amends this article creating a new title to this article to enable the public at large to participate in the political process by reducing the undemocratic influence of special interests; to eliminate the appearance and reality of political corruption that inevitably arises when unlimited money is allowed to influence political outcomes; to restore public faith and participation in democracy; and to vindicate the U.S. Constitution's fundamental principle of democracy, which has been so callously disregarded by the Supreme Court.

Therefore, the legislature declares that these amendments further the important and valid government interests of ensuring the constitutionally guaranteed political equality of all citizens, reducing the appearance and reality of political corruption, encouraging broad based public participation in democracy, and encouraging qualified candidates to run for office, while reducing candidates' and officeholders' fundraising burdens.

§ 14-301. Definitions. For the purposes of this title, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Contribution" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision nine of section 14-100 of this article.

2. "Independent expenditure" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision one of section 14-107 of this article.

3. "Independent expenditure committee" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision fifteen of section 14-100 of this article.

4. "Political committee" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision one of section 14-100 of this article.

§ 14-302. Aggregate contribution and expenditure limits. The state board of elections shall resume enforcement of subdivision eight of section 14-114 of this article.

§ 14-303. Contribution and expenditure limits from political committees. An individual or entity making a contribution to a political committee, regardless of whether the committee is formed for the exclusive purpose of making independent expenditures as defined in subdivision one of section 14-107 of this article, shall be subject to the same limits that apply to an individual or entity making a direct contribution as set forth in sections 14-114, 14-116 and 14-120 of this article.

§ 14-304. Corporate contribution limits to independent expenditure committees. The state board of elections shall resume enforcement of subdivision two of section 14-116 of this article for violations of the contribution limit for corporations making contributions to independent expenditure committees.

§ 14-305. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this title shall be determined by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the particular clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly found invalid in the judgment rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this title would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that any section contained in title 3 of article 14 of the election law as added by section one of this act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after the attorney general certifies that it is reasonably probable that such section would be upheld as constitutional due to: (i) an opinion by the

U.S. Supreme Court; (ii) the adoption of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; or (iii) any other reason, to be specified in the certification. The attorney general shall make such certification or certifications as soon as practicable and no later than one year after the occurrence of such events. The attorney general shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of any such decision or event in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.