

ASSEMBLY, No. 1262

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman RUSSO

1 AN ACT increasing the limit on spending in gubernatorial primary
2 elections and amending P.L.1973, c.83.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-7) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 7. The amount which may be spent in aid of the candidacy of any
10 qualified candidate for Governor at any election shall not exceed in a
11 primary election ~~[\$2,200,000]~~ \$3,500,000, and in a general election
12 \$5,000,000; but such sums shall not include the traveling expenses of
13 the candidate or of any person other than the candidate if such
14 traveling expenses are voluntarily paid by such person without any
15 understanding or agreement with the candidate that they shall be,
16 directly or indirectly, repaid to him by the candidate.

17 (cf: P.L.1989,c.4,s.2)

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19 2. (New section) The amount which may be spent in aid of the
20 candidacy of a qualified candidate for Governor at a primary election
21 established in section 7 of P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-7), as amended
22 by this act, P.L. , c. , shall be operative for the gubernatorial
23 election to be held in 1997 and shall thereafter be the amount subject
24 to adjustment in accordance with the provisions of subsection c. of
25 section 19 of P.L.1980, c.74 (C.44A-7.1) as amended by section 3 of
26 P.L.1989, c.4.

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28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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STATEMENT

This bill increases the limit on spending imposed on a gubernatorial candidate in a primary election to \$3,500,000 for the 1997 gubernatorial primary election. That limit in the 1993 gubernatorial primary election was \$2,600,000 as a result of adjustments for inflation in campaign costs. The increase in the spending limit is intended to enhance competition in the primary election and to advance a level playing field among candidates.

The bill also provides that this amount shall be the the basis for calculating the next inflation adjustment to determine the limit for the primary elections thereafter.

This legislation would implement a May 18, 1994 recommendation of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Increases to \$3,500,000 the limit on gubernatorial spending in 1997 primary election and establishes that amount as basis for future inflation adjustments.