

ASSEMBLY, No. 2655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 14, 1997

By Assemblymen LeFEVRE and BLEE

1 AN ACT concerning prohibited political contributions and amending
2 P.L.1977, c.110.

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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 138 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-138) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 138. No applicant for or holder of a casino license, nor any
10 holding, intermediary or subsidiary company thereof, nor any officer,
11 director, casino key employee or principal employee of an applicant
12 for or holder of a casino license or of any holding, intermediary or
13 subsidiary company thereof nor any person or agent on behalf of any
14 such applicant, holder, company or person, shall directly or indirectly,
15 pay or contribute any money or thing of value to any candidate for
16 nomination or election to any public office in this State, or to any
17 committee of any political party in this State, or to any group,
18 committee or association organized in support of any such candidate
19 or political party, or to any recall committee or recall defense
20 committee organized pursuant to P.L.1995, c.105 (C.19:27A-1 et
21 seq.).

22 (cf: P.L.1977, c.110, s.138)

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill extends the prohibition on political contributions by the
30 casino industry, and certain individuals associated therewith, to include
31 contributions to a recall committee or a recall defense committee
32 organized in connection with an effort to recall an elected official.

33 At present, the law prohibits an applicant for, or holder of, a casino
34 license, as well as a holding, intermediary or subsidiary company

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.

1 thereof, from contributing to any candidate for nomination or election
2 to public office in this State, to a political party or to any group
3 supporting a candidate or party. Contributions by an officer, director,
4 or high-level employee of an applicant or licensee, or of a related
5 company, are also prohibited. These provisions were enacted in 1977
6 as part of the Casino Control Act, N.J.S.A.5:12-1 et seq., in order to
7 prevent corruption or the appearance of corruption.

8 At the general election held in November, 1993, the voters
9 approved an amendment to the New Jersey Constitution which gave
10 the people the power to recall elected officials. The Uniform Recall
11 Election Law, N.J.S.A.19:27A-1 et seq., which implemented the
12 constitutional amendment, was enacted in 1995. It allows a recall
13 committee formed to promote a recall effort and a recall defense
14 committee organized by a targeted official to raise and expend funds.
15 Because the effort to recall an elected official, as well as the official's
16 attempt to resist the recall, may present the same risk of actual or
17 perceived corruption as in other campaigns for public office, it is
18 desirable that the businesses and individuals associated with the casino
19 industry which are currently prohibited from making political
20 contributions also be prohibited from making recall-related
21 contributions.

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26 Prohibits applicant for, or holder of, casino license, and certain casino-
27 related companies, as well as certain high-level employees thereof,
28 from making contributions in connection with a recall election.