

SENATE, No. 617

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 1996

By Senator SCHLUTER

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

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill increases the limit on spending imposed on a gubernatorial  
34 candidate in a primary election to \$3,500,000 for the 1997

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

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 gubernatorial primary election. That limit in the 1993 gubernatorial  
2 primary election was \$2,600,000 as a result of adjustments for  
3 inflation in campaign costs. The increase in the spending limit is  
4 intended to enhance competition in the primary election and to  
5 advance a level playing field among candidates.

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

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

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