

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H2/20/25 S3/3/25

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1369

5 By: Representative Ray  
6 By: Senator J. Dotson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAXIMUM  
10 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY THE ARKANSAS ETHICS  
11 COMMISSION; AMENDING PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM  
12 INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996;  
13 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14  
15

## Subtitle

16 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
17 MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT BY  
18 THE ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION; AMENDING  
19 PORTIONS OF LAW RESULTING FROM INITIATED  
20 ACTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
21  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(a)(1)(A), concerning campaign  
26 contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and  
27 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

28 (a)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any candidate for any public office  
29 or for any person acting on the candidate's behalf to accept campaign  
30 contributions in excess of the maximum campaign contribution ~~level~~ limit  
31 established by ~~rule of~~ the Arkansas Ethics Commission under subsection (i) of  
32 this section per election from:

- 33 (i) An individual;
- 34 (ii) A political party that meets the definition of a  
35 political party under § 7-1-101;
- 36 (iii) A political party that meets the requirements



1 of § 7-7-205;

- 2 (iv) A county political party committee;  
3 (v) A legislative caucus committee; or  
4 (vi) An approved political action committee.  
5

6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(b)(1)(A), concerning campaign  
7 contribution limitations and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and  
8 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

9 (b)(1)(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to make a contribution  
10 to a candidate for any public office or to any person acting on the  
11 candidate's behalf, which in the aggregate amount exceeds the maximum  
12 campaign contribution limit established by ~~rule~~ of the Arkansas Ethics  
13 Commission per election.  
14

15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(i), concerning the establishment of  
16 the maximum campaign contribution limit, is amended to read as follows:

17 (i)(1) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall establish the maximum  
18 campaign contribution limit ~~by rule~~ as follows:

19 ~~(1)(A)~~ The adjusted maximum campaign contribution limit  
20 *shall be calculated from a base amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) as of*  
21 *January 1, 2015;*

22 ~~(2)(B)(i)~~ The ~~contribution limit~~ maximum campaign  
23 contribution limit shall be adjusted ~~at the beginning of~~ each odd-numbered  
24 year in an amount equal to the percentage certified to the Federal Election  
25 Commission by the ~~United States Bureau of Labor Statistics~~ United States  
26 Secretary of Labor under 52 U.S.C. § 30116(c) as existing on January 1, ~~2015+~~  
27 2025.

28 (ii) The adjustment under subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i)  
29 of this section shall occur as soon as practicable following the  
30 certification to the Federal Election Commission by the United States  
31 Secretary of Labor, but no later than the later of:

32 (a) Thirty (30) days following the  
33 certification; or

34 (b) The next regularly scheduled meeting of  
35 the Arkansas Ethics Commission.

36 ~~(3)(C)~~ If the amount of the maximum campaign contribution

1 limit after adjustment under subdivision ~~(i)(2)~~(i)(1)(B) of this section is  
2 not a multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100), the Arkansas Ethics Commission  
3 shall round the amount to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars (\$100)+  
4 and.

5 ~~(4)(2)(A)~~ The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall ~~promulgate rules~~  
6 ~~identifying the adjusted contribution limit under this subsection:~~

7 (i) Publish the maximum campaign contribution limit  
8 established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section on the official website  
9 of the Arkansas Ethics Commission and in any other location or format deemed  
10 necessary by the Arkansas Ethics Commission; and

11 (ii) Make the maximum campaign contribution limit  
12 established under subdivision (i)(1) of this section available to the  
13 Secretary of State, elected public officials, candidates, committees under  
14 this subchapter, and the public.

15 (B) The maximum campaign contribution limit established under  
16 subdivision (i)(1) of this section shall be:

17 (i) Effective upon being published upon the official  
18 website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission; and

19 (ii) Retroactive to the date of the certification to  
20 the Federal Election Commission by the United States Secretary of Labor under  
21 subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i) of this section.

22 (C) The maximum campaign contribution limit established under  
23 subdivision (i)(1) of this section:

24 (i) Is not a rule under §§ 10-3-309 and 25-15-202;  
25 and

26 (ii) Shall not be promulgated under the Arkansas  
27 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

28  
29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 10-3-309(b)(1)(B), concerning the review  
30 and approval of state agency rules, is amended to add an additional  
31 subdivision to read as follows:

32 (vi) An adjustment to the maximum campaign  
33 contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

34  
35 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 25-15-202(9)(B), concerning the definition  
36 of "rule" in the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, is amended to add an

1 additional subdivision to read as follows:

2 (ix) An adjustment to the maximum campaign  
3 contribution limit under § 7-6-203(i).

4  
5 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
6 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that standardizing the laws related  
7 to campaign finance contributes significantly to the public peace, health,  
8 and safety of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; that the public peace,  
9 health, and safety is negatively affected by unclear campaign finance laws  
10 which lead to unintentional violations of the law and inhibit the ability of  
11 citizens to exercise their right to political expression; that this act  
12 preserves the public peace, health, and safety by ensuring that political  
13 donors, political candidates, and elected officials are free from unintended  
14 limits of their political expression by providing a more efficient and  
15 transparent manner of establishing the state's maximum campaign contribution  
16 limit; and that this act also preserves the public peace, health, and safety  
17 by eliminating unnecessary rulemaking processes, thereby avoiding the use of  
18 public funds in that rulemaking that can be allocated to other pressing needs  
19 of the state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act  
20 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,  
21 and safety shall become effective on:

22 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

23 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
24 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
25 bill; or

26 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
27 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

28  
29 /s/Ray  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36