

Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02-0937.01 Bob Lackner

SJR02-014

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tupa, Gordon, Fitz-Gerald, Hanna, Pascoe, Reeves, Tate, and Windels

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Daniel,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-014

101 **CONCERNING THE "BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2002"**
102 **THAT HAS BEEN PASSED BY THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF**
103 **REPRESENTATIVES AND IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION**
104 **IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.**

1 WHEREAS, The United States was founded on certain principles,
2 one of which is political equality; and

3 WHEREAS, In a democracy, one person's vote should not count
4 more than the vote of another; and

5 WHEREAS, In recent years, money has become even more of a
6 determining factor in deciding who wins elections for political office; and

7 WHEREAS, As increasingly greater amounts of money are being
8 spent on election campaigns, a smaller percentage of United States
9 citizens participate in their government through voting, resulting in one
10 of the lowest voting rates among the democracies of the world; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
Final Reading
March 14, 2002

1 WHEREAS, The increased amount of money spent on election
2 campaigns creates a perception among the public that money has more to
3 do with who gets elected in the United States than a candidate's merit,
4 honesty, work ethic, or principles, and that influence over the
5 governmental process is directly tied to the amount of money contributed
6 to a campaign; and

7 WHEREAS, These perceptions undermine the citizens' belief in
8 a government in which no person is favored or treated differently from
9 anyone else and cause the public to become more cynical about the
10 decisions made by public officials; and

11 WHEREAS, In order for a democratic republic to function
12 properly, it must have the confidence and support of the people; and

13 WHEREAS, Although federal law imposes limitations on
14 so-called "hard money", or money that may be contributed to and spent
15 by candidates for elective office, there are currently no restrictions
16 imposed by federal law on who may contribute so-called "soft money",
17 or money contributed to and spent by a political party, ostensibly for uses
18 apart from the direct support of a candidate, or the amount of such soft
19 money that may be contributed; and

20 WHEREAS, The Democratic and Republican National Party
21 Committees raised a record \$160,125,818 in soft money during the first
22 half of the 2001-02 election cycle; and

23 WHEREAS, Unregulated, unlimited soft money contributions are
24 an evasion of long established prohibitions on corporate and labor union
25 political contributions; and

26 WHEREAS, The collapse of Enron and accompanying concerns
27 about the role that may have been played by large accounting firms in its
28 collapse have heightened awareness and concern about the role of large,
29 unlimited contributions; and

30 WHEREAS, Removing the influence of soft money will help
31 renew public confidence in government and our economic institutions;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Coloradans have expressed their support for
34 campaign finance reform with the passage of a citizens' initiative,
35 Amendment 15, passed in 1996 with 66% of the vote; and

36 WHEREAS, Amendment 15 passed in an overwhelming number
37 of the state's counties, having been approved in 49 of the state's then-63
38 counties, representing 77% of the total number of counties in the state at
39 that time; and

40 WHEREAS, It has been close to 30 years, since after the
41 Watergate scandal in 1974, that any significant campaign finance reform
42 measures have passed at the federal level; and

43 WHEREAS, The passage of the McCain-Feingold bill in April of

1 2001 by a convincing, bipartisan majority in the United States Senate
2 further demonstrates the broad support for ending the abuse of soft
3 money; and

4 WHEREAS, The passage of House Resolution 2356, the
5 "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002", commonly known as the
6 Shays-Meehan bill, by a convincing, bipartisan majority in the United
7 States House of Representatives demonstrates broad, current support for
8 ending the abuse of soft money; and

9 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has said he will sign the
10 "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002" into law if the measure
11 reaches his desk; now, therefore,

12 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly*
13 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

14 That the Colorado General Assembly respectfully urges the United
15 States Senate to approve the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002".

16 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
17 sent to United States Senators Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse
18 Campbell, the remainder of Colorado's delegation to the United States
19 Congress, and Governor Bill Owens.