

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0944
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Moreno

Date: April 4, 2014
Bill Status: House SVMA
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SHORT TITLE: CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES NOT MAJOR POL PARTIES

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows candidate committees for write-in candidates, unaffiliated candidates, and minor party candidates nominated by means other than a primary election, to accept individual contributions up to the aggregate contribution limit for the election cycle. Under current law, such candidates who do not compete in a primary election may only collect contributions up to the maximum amount allowed for the general election portion of the election cycle. The bill also allows these candidates to expend contributions received at any point during the election cycle for which the candidate is on the ballot.

Background

Current law sets separate individual contribution limits for primary and general elections. The combined amount may be spent at any point in the election. This effectively allowed candidates running in a primary election to raise double the amount from any individual contributor compared with write-in, unaffiliated, or minor party candidates in the same race. The tenth circuit held that the state statute violates the contributors' right to equal protection. In *Riddle v. Hickenlooper*, the court ruled that current law discriminates against certain candidates competing for the same political office, and was unconstitutional.

State Expenditures

The bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The bill makes changes to the contribution limits for candidates not participating in a primary election and will not have an impact on state expenditures or revenues.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

State