
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 387

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ONLINE DONATION PLATFORMS FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.

SUMMARY

Generally, state campaign finance law's definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure" include, with specified exceptions, anything of value that promotes either the success or defeat of a candidate or political party.

This bill adds a new exemption to each definition. It exempts from the definition of contribution certain payments to an online platform that collects contributions from contributors and transmits them to committees (see below). Specifically, it exempts voluntary payments to the platform by the contributor that are (1) in addition to the contribution and (2) used by the platform to conduct its operations. The bill adds a parallel exemption to the definition of expenditure for using the platform to request these voluntary payments.

Generally, state law subjects contributions to, and expenditures by, candidate committees, party committees, and political committees to campaign finance reporting requirements. It also places limits on contributions made to benefit these committees. Exempted items or services do not need to be reported as contributions or expenditures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2024)