

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3274

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform House of Representatives campaign finance laws, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 1996

Mr. GOSS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform House of Representatives campaign finance laws, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LIMI-**  
4 **TATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS**  
5 **OTHER THAN LOCAL INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS.**

6 Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act  
7 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following new subsection:

1       “(i) A candidate for the office of Representative in,  
2 or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress  
3 may not, with respect to a reporting period for an election,  
4 accept contributions—

5               “(1) from persons other than individual resi-  
6 dents of the congressional district involved in excess  
7 of 50 percent of the total of contributions accepted;  
8 or

9               “(2) from persons other than individual resi-  
10 dents of the State in which the congressional district  
11 involved is located in excess of 10 percent of the  
12 total of contributions accepted.”.

13 **SEC. 2. REDUCTION IN LIMITATION AMOUNT APPLICABLE**  
14 **TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY A MULTICANDIDATE**  
15 **POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO A HOUSE OF REP-**  
16 **RESENTATIVES CANDIDATE.**

17       Section 315(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Election Cam-  
18 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(2)(A)) is amended  
19 by inserting after “\$5,000” the following: “, except that  
20 in the case of an election for the office of Representative  
21 in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Con-  
22 gress, the limitation shall be \$1,000”.

1 **SEC. 3. BAN ON SOFT MONEY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Election  
3 Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended  
4 by adding at the end the following new section:

5 “LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
6 AMOUNTS PAID FOR MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

7 “SEC. 323. (a) Any payment by the national commit-  
8 tee of a political party or a State committee of a political  
9 party for a mixed political activity—

10 “(1) shall be subject to limitation and reporting  
11 under this Act as if such payment were an expendi-  
12 ture; and

13 “(2) may be paid only from an account that is  
14 subject to the requirements of this Act.

15 “(b) As used in this section, the term ‘mixed political  
16 activity’ means, with respect to a payment by the national  
17 committee of a political party or a State committee of a  
18 political party, an activity, such as a voter registration  
19 program, a get-out-the-vote drive, or general political ad-  
20 vertising, that is both (1) for the purpose of influencing  
21 an election for Federal office, and (2) for any purpose un-  
22 related to influencing an election for Federal office.”.

23 (b) REPEAL OF BUILDING FUND EXCEPTION TO THE  
24 DEFINITION OF THE TERM “CONTRIBUTION”.—Section  
25 301(8)(B) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971  
26 (2 U.S.C. 431(8)(B)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking out clause (viii); and

2 (2) by redesignating clauses (ix) through (xiv)

3 as clauses (viii) through (xiii), respectively.

4 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**

5 Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
6 U.S.C. 315) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

8 (A) by striking “forty-five” and inserting  
9 “30”;

10 (B) by striking “sixty” and inserting “45”;

11 and

12 (C) by striking “lowest unit charge of the  
13 station for the same class and amount of time  
14 for the same period” and insert “lowest charge  
15 of the station for the same amount of time for  
16 the same period”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as  
18 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

19 (3) by inserting immediately after subsection  
20 (b) the following new subsection:

21 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a li-  
22 censee shall not preempt the use, during any period speci-  
23 fied in subsection (b)(1), of a broadcasting station by a  
24 legally qualified candidate for public office who has pur-

1 chased and paid for such use pursuant to the provisions  
2 of subsection (b)(1).

3 “(2) If a program to be broadcast by a broadcasting  
4 station is preempted because of circumstances beyond the  
5 control of the broadcasting station, any candidate adver-  
6 tising spot scheduled to be broadcast during that program  
7 may also be preempted.”; and

8 (4) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-  
9 graph (2) of this section)—

10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
11 graph (1);

12 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
13 paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end thereof the fol-  
15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(3) a station’s lowest charge for purposes of  
17 paragraph (1)—

18 “(A) with respect to a primary or primary  
19 runoff election, is determined for the interval  
20 beginning 60 days before such election and end-  
21 ing on the date of that election; and

22 “(B) with respect to a general or special  
23 election, is determined for the interval begin-

1           ning 90 days before such election and ending on  
2           the date of that election.”.

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