

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 493

By Senator Woodrum

[Introduced February 14, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend §3-8-5c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the
2 amount limitations on contributions to all political committees beginning July 1, 2025.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 8. REGULATION AND CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.

§3-8-5c. Contribution limitations.

1 Beginning on July 1, 2025, there shall be no amount limitations on contributions to any
2 political committee as defined in W. Va. Code § 3-8-1a(31) of this code.~~(1) A person, political party,~~
3 ~~or political action committee may not, in an election cycle:~~

4 ~~(A) Contribute more than \$2,800, directly or indirectly, to a candidate's committee for a~~
5 ~~candidate seeking nomination, including by making contributions to the candidate's committee; or~~

6 ~~(B) Contribute more than \$2,800, directly or indirectly, to a candidate's committee for a~~
7 ~~candidate seeking election, including by making contributions to the candidate's committee:~~
8 ~~Provided, That a candidate may receive contributions for the general election prior to nomination,~~
9 ~~however, such funds may not be expended until after the date of the nomination is declared.~~

10 ~~(2) The contribution limits of this section apply only to elections to be held after the effective~~
11 ~~date of this section and do not apply to candidate committees that were created for elections held~~
12 ~~prior to the effective date of this section.~~

13 ~~(b) A person, except candidate committees and caucus campaign committees, may not,~~
14 ~~directly or indirectly, make contributions to a state party executive committee, or any subsidiary,~~
15 ~~branch, or local unit thereof, or a caucus campaign committee which, in the aggregate, exceed~~
16 ~~\$10,000 in any calendar year. Provided, That a person may not earmark or otherwise designate~~
17 ~~any portion of a contribution made pursuant to this subsection to be used to support or oppose the~~
18 ~~election of a particular candidate. Provided, however, That any such designation or earmark that~~
19 ~~accompanies a contribution made pursuant to this subsection may not be binding on the entity that~~
20 ~~receives the contribution.~~

21 ~~(c) A person may not, directly or indirectly, make contributions to a political action~~
22 ~~committee, related to a particular election, which, in the aggregate, exceed \$5,000.~~

23 ~~(d) Candidate committees and caucus campaign committees may make contributions to~~
24 ~~their affiliated state party executive committees, or any subsidiary, branch, or local unit thereof, or~~
25 ~~a caucus campaign committee up to \$75,000.~~

26 ~~(e) The amendments to this section enacted during the regular session of the Legislature,~~
27 ~~2022, shall not be effective until November 9, 2022.~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the existing amount limitations on contributions to all political committees beginning on July 1, 2025.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading, or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.