

I practiced election law for 25 years in Portland, advising political candidates on contribution and expenditure laws. I also hold a master's degree in legal history. Based on my practice experience, I respectfully submit to the committee that this bill, if passed, will become a Full Employment Act for Election Lawyers. This bill imposes an extremely complicated regulatory regime on political candidates unprecedented in Oregon history. It is filled with traps for the unwary. It will require candidates and political treasurers to spend excessive time and expense monitoring contributions to avoid extraordinary penalties. Litigation before the Secretary of State and courts in the rule-making process to determine the proper contribution limits will be extensive. It will also take away candidates' control over their campaigns, because it will tempt independent expenditure committees located outside Oregon to begin advertising in Oregon elections. The legislators must think clearly about how campaigns are actually run before approving this bill.