

AUGUST 15, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 15074 which amends campaign laws for local elections in the District of Columbia to set limits on contributions and expenditures, requires full reports on the financing of such campaigns, and requires registration of lobbyists.

Home rule for the District of Columbia, recently approved by the local electorate, will become effective on January 2, 1975, under the District of Columbia Self-Determination and Governmental Reorganization Act (P. L. 93-198). H. R. 15074 would establish requirements and standards for the upcoming elections for mayor and other publicly elected officials to be held this September and November.

The bill covers candidates for mayor, chairman and members of the city council, members of the school board, members of an advisory neighborhood council, and elected officials of political parties (national committee persons or delegates to conventions and their alternates, as well as any others which may be elected).

The bill would establish a D. C. Board of Elections and Ethics to supersede, and expand the powers of, the current Board of Elections. A Director of Campaign Finance within the Board, appointed by the D. C. Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Senate, would have broad powers to require reports and investigate potential violations. After January 2, 1975, the advice and consent of the D. C. Council would replace that of the Senate.

H. R. 15074 would require that a detailed statement of organization be filed by each political committee and candidate for office, as well as periodic reports throughout the campaign. Each candidate would be required to designate one political committee as his principal campaign committee which would be responsible for coordinating and reporting all contributions and expenditures of any other committees authorized by that candidate. Unauthorized individuals or groups could not expend more than \$1,000 on behalf of a candidate. Each committee would be required to designate a D. C. bank as its campaign depository, into which all contributions must be deposited. Each contribution of \$10 or more must be

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recorded and reported by name; no cash contributions of more than \$50 could be accepted; and no contribution could be made in the name of another person. Expenditures in excess of \$50 could be made only by check drawn on the committee's campaign depository bank. Extensive reports would be required on both expenditures and contributions.

The bill would establish limits on the amount of money or goods which individuals or groups could contribute to the combined primary and general elections of a candidate, including all gifts to all committees. The limits would be \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for groups for the office of mayor, and lesser amounts for other offices. An individual could not contribute an aggregate for all candidates of more than \$2,000 in any election. There would be no aggregate limit for groups.

H. R. 15074 would also establish expenditure limits for each office. Expenditures could not exceed a combined \$200,000 for both the primary and general election for the office of mayor, with lesser amounts set for the other offices. No more than 60 percent could be spent for either of the elections, with the remainder of the limit to be spent on the other election. The limits would apply to the combined expenditures of all committees working on behalf of a candidate.

The bill would establish requirements for registration and reports of persons engaging for pay in lobbying for or against proposed legislation before the D. C. Council. An exemption would be granted for persons who receive less than \$500 per year for their work. Criminal violations would be provided for violations of the lobbying provisions.

The bill would require that all candidates for office and all D. C. employees at the GS-15 or above level file financial disclosure reports. It would permit a credit against D. C. income tax of up to \$12.50 per individual for contributions to local political candidates.

Finally, the bill would provide that the D. C. Council may legislate changes to the election laws after it takes office on January 2, 1975.

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