

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1416

Introduced by

Representative Boucher

Senator LaFountain

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-08.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the imposition of a fee on campaign contributions and the creation of
3 a special campaign contribution assessment account; and to provide a continuing
4 appropriation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 16.1-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Campaign contributions - Imposition of fee - Public financing - Continuing**
9 **appropriation.**

- 10 1. A candidate who accepts contributions in a calendar year in an amount exceeding
11 five thousand dollars in the aggregate shall pay to the state tax commissioner a fee
12 of twenty percent on the amount of contributions accepted in excess of five
13 thousand dollars but less than ten thousand dollars, and a fee of thirty percent on
14 the amount of contributions accepted which totals ten thousand dollars or more
15 during that calendar year.
- 16 2. Fees collected under subsection 1 must be placed in a special campaign
17 assessment account to be administered by the secretary of state. The funds in the
18 account are hereby appropriated on a continuing basis for the purposes of
19 providing matching funds to any candidate that has qualified to have the
20 candidate's name placed on the general election ballot for the next general election
21 and who meets the requirements of subsection 3.
- 22 3. A candidate for the legislative assembly may apply to the secretary of state to
23 receive funds from the special campaign assessment account if the candidate
24 signs a statement verifying that the candidate will expend for political purposes no

1 more than fifteen thousand dollars during that calendar year. A candidate for a
2 statewide office may apply to the secretary of state to receive funds from the
3 special campaign assessment account if the candidate signs a statement verifying
4 that the candidate will expend for political purposes no more than two hundred fifty
5 thousand dollars during that calendar year. The secretary of state may distribute
6 funds from the special campaign assessment account to qualified candidates on a
7 matching basis up to a maximum of five thousand dollars for a legislative
8 candidate and fifty thousand dollars for a statewide candidate upon certification
9 that the candidate has received contributions during that calendar year in the
10 amount requested. If the special campaign assessment account does not contain
11 adequate funding to fund all qualified applicants, the secretary of state shall
12 distribute the funds to applicants based upon the order in which the applications
13 were received.

- 14 4. The tax commissioner shall adopt rules to administer the reporting and collection
15 of fees under this section. The secretary of state may adopt rules to administer the
16 distribution of funds and a candidate's return of unexpended funds for deposit in
17 the special campaign assessment account under this section.