

31-2.

(a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated unless otherwise provided.

(b) "Candidate" means a Governor-Lieutenant Governor unit.

(c) "Comptroller" means the State Comptroller of the treasury.

(d) "Eligible candidate" means a candidate who has qualified to receive a public contribution.

(e) "Eligible private contribution" means that portion of a MONETARY OR IN KIND campaign contribution, or series of contributions, from an individual that does not exceed ~~[\$250]~~ \$500.

(f) "Fund" means the "Fair Campaign Financing Fund".

(g) "Public contribution" means a sum disbursed from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund to a candidate according to the provisions of this subtitle.

(h) "Seed money" means a sum of lawfully raised eligible private contributions that is ~~45~~ 10 percent of the maximum campaign expenditure limit provided under § 31-3 for an election.

(i) "State Administrator" means the State Administrator of Election Laws.

(j) "State Board" means the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

(k) "Treasurer" includes a campaign subtreasurer.

31-3.

(a) (1) A candidate who applies for and accepts a public contribution from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund may not expend, in the applicable election, an amount in excess of the product of [20] 30 cents multiplied by the population of the State ADJUSTED ANNUALLY, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1997, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

(2) EXPENDITURES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE CANDIDATE BY STATE OR LOCAL PARTISAN CENTRAL COMMITTEES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(b) For purposes of this section, the population of the State shall be determined on January 1 of the year in which the election is to be held in accordance with the most recent decennial United States census, or a more recent population estimate prepared for the State by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene if this is available.

(c) The candidate, and any chairman or treasurer associated with the expenditure, are jointly and severally liable civilly and criminally for any expenditure made in violation of this section.

[(d) Provisions in this section shall not be applicable to any election held prior to January 1, 1991.]