

[31-3.] 15-103. LIMITATIONS ON CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES.

(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 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.

[31-4.] 15-104. FAIR CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND.

(a) (1) There is established the "Fair Campaign Financing Fund" which shall be administered by the Comptroller in accordance with the provisions of [§ 31-9] § 15-109 of this [subtitle] TITLE.

(2) The Comptroller shall credit to the Fund all money collected pursuant to these provisions.

(b) Subject to the other requirements of this [subtitle] TITLE, the State Board shall begin to distribute one-half of the money in the Fund not later than February 1 of the year of the election to eligible candidates in the primary election on a continuing basis and the remaining money in the Fund promptly after the primary election to eligible candidates in the general election.

(c) [No later than January 1, 1996, the State Administrator] ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR~~ STATE ADMINISTRATOR shall [promulgate] ADOPT comprehensive regulations to carry out the purposes and requirements of this [subtitle] TITLE. The regulations shall include provisions regarding:

(1) The manner and date by which candidates shall notify the State Board that they intend to qualify for public contributions;

(2) The deadline for candidates to submit requests for public contributions;

(3) The dates upon which the State Board is to order, and the Comptroller is to make, disbursements of public contributions to candidates in accordance with this [subtitle] TITLE;