

Public Law 94-453
94th Congress

An Act

Oct. 2, 1976

[H.R. 11722]

To amend title 18 of the United States Code to prohibit deprivation of employment or other benefit for political contribution, and for other purposes.

Political
contributions.
Employment
deprivation,
prohibition.
Penalty,
violation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 601 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

“§ 601. Deprivation of employment or other benefit for political contribution

“(a) Whoever, directly or indirectly, knowingly causes or attempts to cause any person to make a contribution of a thing of value (including services) for the benefit of any candidate or any political party, by means of the denial or deprivation, or the threat of the denial or deprivation, of—

“(1) any employment, position, or work in or for any agency or other entity of the Government of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or any compensation or benefit of such employment, position, or work; or

“(2) any payment or benefit of a program of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State; if such employment, position, work, compensation, payment, or benefit is provided for or made possible in whole or in part by an Act of Congress, shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Definitions.

“(b) As used in this section—

“(1) the term ‘candidate’ means an individual who seeks nomination for election, or election, to Federal, State, or local office, whether or not such individual is elected, and, for purposes of this paragraph, an individual shall be deemed to seek nomination for election, or election, to Federal, State, or local office, if he has (A) taken the action necessary under the law of a State to qualify himself for nomination for election, or election, or (B) received contributions or made expenditures, or has given his consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bringing about his nomination for election, or election, to such office;

“(2) the term ‘election’ means (A) a general, special primary, or runoff election, (B) a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate a candidate, (C) a primary election held for the selection of delegates to a nominating convention of a political party, (D) a primary election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of persons for election to the office of President, and (E) the election of delegates to a constitutional convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States or of any State; and

“(3) the term ‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States.”

SEC. 2. The item relating to section 601 in the table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"601. Deprivation of employment or other benefit for political contribution."

SEC. 3. Section 600 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by striking out "\$1,000" and inserting "\$10,000" in lieu thereof.

SEC. 4. (a) Chapter 13 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 246. Deprivation of relief benefits

18 USC 246.

"Whoever directly or indirectly deprives, attempts to deprive, or threatens to deprive any person of any employment, position, work, compensation, or other benefit provided for or made possible in whole or in part by any Act of Congress appropriating funds for work relief or relief purposes, on account of political affiliation, race, color, sex, religion, or national origin, shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

(b) The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new item:

"246. Deprivation of relief benefits."

Approved October 2, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-986 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
SENATE REPORT No. 94-1245 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):

Apr. 5, considered and passed House.

Sept. 21, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 22, House concurred in Senate amendments.