

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to campaign financing; amending s.
 3 106.141, F.S.; allowing unopposed legislative candidates
 4 to transfer surplus campaign funds to or retain such funds
 5 in a campaign account for reelection to the same office;
 6 establishing limits on the transferable amount of such
 7 funds; providing a prohibition from fundraising under
 8 certain conditions; providing an effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 13 106.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 106.141 Disposition of surplus funds by candidates.--

15 (4) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), any candidate
 16 required to dispose of funds pursuant to this section shall, at
 17 the option of the candidate, dispose of such funds by any of the
 18 following means, or any combination thereof:

19 1. Return pro rata to each contributor the funds that have
 20 not been spent or obligated.

21 2. Donate the funds that have not been spent or obligated
 22 to a charitable organization or organizations that meet the
 23 qualifications of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

24 3. Give not more than \$10,000 of the funds that have not
 25 been spent or obligated to the political party of which such
 26 candidate is a member, except that a candidate for the ~~Florida~~

27 | Senate may give not more than \$30,000 of such funds to the
28 | political party of which the candidate is a member.

29 | 4. Give the funds that have not been spent or obligated:

30 | a. In the case of a candidate for state office, to the
31 | state, to be deposited in either the Election Campaign Financing
32 | Trust Fund or the General Revenue Fund, as designated by the
33 | candidate; or

34 | b. In the case of a candidate for an office of a political
35 | subdivision, to such political subdivision, to be deposited in
36 | the general fund thereof.

37 | 5. With respect to an unopposed candidate for the House of
38 | Representatives or the Senate, transfer the funds to or retain
39 | the funds in a campaign account for the same office to which the
40 | candidate was elected by virtue of being unopposed, with a
41 | maximum per election of \$50,000 for a candidate for the House of
42 | Representatives and \$150,000 for a candidate for the Senate. An
43 | unopposed candidate for the House of Representatives who
44 | exercises this option is prohibited from accepting campaign
45 | contributions for the same office for 1 year after the date of
46 | qualifying for the election in which such option is exercised.
47 | An unopposed candidate for the Senate who exercises this option
48 | is prohibited from accepting campaign contributions for the same
49 | office for 2 years after the date of qualifying for the election
50 | in which such option is exercised.

51 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.