

HB 1667 Fact Sheet

1-10-2018

At the federal level, businesses are not allowed to donate money from their own treasuries to political campaigns. In New Hampshire, the same rule was in effect—until 1999. In that year, the US District Court struck down the state's prohibition, finding it too broad. The Court determined that New Hampshire's rule cast too wide a net in that it did not allow for donations from business's "segregated funds." I.e., it did not allow for corporate PACs that aggregate funds from employees, stockholders, *et al.* The Court made it clear, however, that the law was easily fixable if it banned donations from business's treasury funds only. The legislature has never followed through, and for the past 17 years, businesses have legally been able to contribute directly to campaigns.

HB 1667 provides the necessary fix to return New Hampshire's election law to the *status quo ante*, barring once again direct contributions from businesses to political campaigns.

A second part of the bill requires all political ads to list the top five natural-person donors to a campaign in all advertising.