

April 3, 2003

S 760. LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. *TO CLARIFY THAT GRANTS FROM UNIFORM PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING DO NOT CONSTITUTE "CONTRIBUTIONS" AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS; TO CLARIFY THAT CERTAIN CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT THOSE PROGRAMS; TO GRANT CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS LIMITED AUTHORITY TO SET STRICTER LIMITS THAN THOSE IN EFFECT STATEWIDE FOR CONTRIBUTION LIMITS AND REPORTING; AND TO MANDATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF LOCAL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING PROGRAMS.* Amends GS 163-278.6(6) to provide that certain grants from governmental entities for public campaign financing do not constitute "contributions." Enacts new GS 160A-499 authorizing counties with populations exceeding 50,000 and cities with populations exceeding 30,000 to appropriate funds for uniform, nondiscriminatory programs of public financing of election campaigns. Enacts new GS 160A-500 to authorize governing body of city or county to set stricter political contribution limits and campaign reporting thresholds for local offices than those provided under GS 163-278.13 and 163-268.8. Counties and cities may not set higher dollar amounts for contribution limits or reporting thresholds than those under GS Ch. 163 and may not set contribution limit lower than \$200 for contribution from one source to one recipient per election or reporting threshold lower than \$20. Appropriates \$15,000 to State Board of Election to study public financing programs for local government elections in US.

Intro. by Gulley.

Ref. to	APPROP, STUDY, 153A, 160A, 163
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June 4, 2003

S 760. LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE OPTIONS (NEW). Intro. 4/3/03. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Limits authorization to establish public financing system for local election campaigns to counties with 80,000 (was 50,000) or more population and cities with 40,000 (was 30,000) or more population. Requires that criteria for participation in public financing include demonstration of public support of candidate and candidate's acceptance of strict fund-raising and expenditure limits. Rewrites proposed GS 160A-500 (locally-imposed contribution limits) to permit county with 80,000 or more population or city with 40,000 or more population to establish \$1000 contribution limit for elections for county or city offices, respectively.

July 15, 2003

S 760. LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE OPTIONS. Intro. 4/3/03. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. (1) Adds a requirement that unspent grants be returned to the city or county. (2) Deletes provision that would have given cities and counties of a certain size authority to set contribution limits at \$1,000 for local offices. (3) Deletes appropriation provision. (4) Requires the State Board of Elections to review, rather than study, a variety of public campaign financing programs.