SENATE BILL 782:
Raise Merchandise Sales Limit/Campaign Finan.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Redistricting and Elections. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	**Date:**	June 22, 2020
Introduced by:	Sens. Edwards, Hise, D. Davis	**Prepared by:**	Erika Churchill
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 782 would raise the maximum amount a political party executive committee or an affiliated committee can raise from the sale of goods or services in an election cycle from $10,000 to $20,000.

CURRENT LAW: All political committees, including political parties, candidates, and affiliated committees, are to report contributions and expenditures in accordance with Article 22A of Chapter 163. For that purpose, a 'contribution' is "any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, gift, pledge or subscription of money or anything of value whatsoever, made to, or in coordination with, a candidate to support or oppose the nomination or election of one or more clearly identified candidates, to a political committee, to a political party, to an affiliated party committee, or to a referendum committee..." G.S. 163-278.6(13).

Under G.S. 163-278.8A, referred to as "Exempt Sale," political party executive committees and affiliated committees are granted the ability to not include the purchase price of good or services, such as t-shirts, buttons, and food items, sold by that political party executive committee or affiliated committee as a contribution provided all of the following apply:

- The treasurer submits a sales plan to the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections for approval prior to conducting the sale.
- The price charged for each item is reasonably close to its market price.
- The total amount raised from all sales under all plans by the committee does not exceed $10,000 per election cycle.
- The total purchases for each contributor is $50 or less.
- The treasurer includes in the appropriate reports any in kind contribution made to the political party in providing the goods or services sold under the plan.

Under an Exempt Sale, treasurers are not required to obtain the name, address, and employer information for each contributor. Instead, the treasurer records the total number of each item sold and the amount raised.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 782 would increase the maximum amount per election cycle that a political party executive committee or an affiliated committee can raise from $10,000 to $20,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective for the 2020 election cycle and forward.

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Director

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This bill analysis was prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff for the use of legislators in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.