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## Summary of the Presidential Funding Act

The Presidential Funding Act would modernize the system by increasing the public matching funds available to candidates, adjusting the program to today's front-loaded primary calendar, and further enhancing the role of donors who contribute \$200 or less through a 4:1 match on their donations (the current match is 1:1).

Rep. David Price (D-N.C.) is the lead sponsor of the House version of the Presidential Funding Act (H.R. 414). Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) is the lead sponsor of the Senate version of the legislation (S. 3312). A summary of the Presidential Funding Act is below.

### Primary Election

- Eliminates the state by state and overall primary election spending limits.
- Increases the amount of matching funds for the presidential primaries from the current 1:1 match for up to \$250 of an individual's total contributions, to a 4:1 match for contributions from individuals of \$200 or less. In order to be matchable, a contribution must be from an individual who has not given, and will not give, more than a total of \$200 to the candidate. Participating candidates can receive up to \$100 million in matching funds.
- Requires a candidate who participates in the public financing system to agree to accept contributions of no more than \$1,000 from any person, instead of the current contribution limit of \$2,400. Participating candidates must also pledge not to accept any contributions from, or bundled by, lobbyists or PACs.
- Provides that to qualify for public financing in the primary election, a candidate must raise \$25,000 (increased from \$5,000 under current law) in each of 20 states, of which no more than \$200 can come from any one individual. A candidate also must commit to accept public financing in both the primary and general election.
- Moves the starting date for the payment of matching funds to primary candidates from January 1 of the election year to six months before the first presidential primary or caucus. Also establishes a single date – the Friday before Labor Day -- for payments of general election funding grants to the major party nominees.

### **General Election**

- Eliminates the general election spending limit on participating candidates.
- Provides a grant to participating general election candidates of \$50 million, payable on the Friday before Labor Day. Also provides up to an additional \$150 million in matching funds based on a 4:1 match of contributions raised after June 1 of the election year of up to \$200 per donor.
- General election candidates can also raise up to \$500 per donor after June 1 of the election year. (Only contributions of \$200 or less will be matched.)
- Increases the limit on coordinated spending by a national party and its presidential candidate from approximately \$15 million to a total of \$50 million. The entire cost of an ad coordinated with a presidential candidate must be covered by that candidate with general election funds and the party committee with coordinated expenditure funds.
- Prohibits a participating general election candidate from soliciting funds for a joint fundraising committee that includes a party committee after June 1 of the election year, and prohibits soliciting for any party committee after September 1 of the election year.

### **General Provisions**

- Requires presidential campaigns to disclose all individuals or groups (not just lobbyists as under current law) that bundle contributions totaling more than \$50,000 in the four year election cycle. Prohibits the bundling of matchable contributions by anyone other than an individual or a party committee.
- Increases the amount of the check-off on the income tax form to fund the public financing system from \$3 to \$10 per individual and from \$6 to \$20 for a married couple, and indexes these amounts for inflation. Directs the IRS to require that approved tax preparation software does not automatically accept or decline a check-off of taxpayer funds for the public financing system.

### **Party Conventions**

- Eliminates public funding for the national party conventions.
- Allows individuals to contribute up to \$25,000 in each four-year presidential election cycle to pay for national party convention costs. These contributions would not count against an individual's aggregate contribution limit.
- Prohibits the use of soft money funds, including in-kind contributions from corporate and union sponsors, to pay for national party convention costs.

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