

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Adopt the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Rosenbaum

Nays: Ferrioli, Starr

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to propose amendment to United States Constitution to clarify that Congress and state legislatures may regulate all moneys raised and expenditures made for political purposes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for measure
- Impact of money in politics
- Rights of corporations and other entities in political context

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Corporate personhood is a legal construct that permits corporations to sue and be sued in court in the same way as natural persons or unincorporated associations of persons. This construct provides the underlying rationale for corporations, as groups of people, to hold and exercise certain rights.

In *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), the Supreme Court reasoned that, because a corporation is made of natural persons who have First Amendment rights, a corporation may have First Amendment rights, and held that the First Amendment prohibits government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions.