

**Introduced by Senators De León and Steinberg**

May 14, 2014

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Senate Resolution No. 44—Relative to the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2013–14 Regular Session.

1       WHEREAS, The California State Senate seeks adoption of a  
2 Senate rule to affirm the public’s confidence in this elected  
3 legislative body; and  
4       WHEREAS, The period immediately preceding the passage of  
5 the state budget and the period immediately preceding the end of  
6 the legislative session each year are the times at which the  
7 Legislature makes the most critical public policy decisions  
8 regarding the governance of the state; and  
9       WHEREAS, It is of particular importance during those periods  
10 of the legislative session that the Members of the Senate be  
11 insulated from extraneous matters that may divert their attention  
12 from the legislative work before them; and  
13       WHEREAS, A rule prohibiting Members of the Senate from  
14 soliciting or accepting campaign contributions from lobbyist  
15 employers during those periods of time will serve to both lessen  
16 the distractions of the Members of the Senate at a time when critical  
17 legislative decisions are made and address public concerns  
18 regarding fundraising taking place during the most crucial times  
19 in the legislative calendar; and  
20       WHEREAS, A rule limiting fundraising activities during those  
21 periods would be narrowly tailored to serve the compelling state  
22 interests of bolstering public confidence in the Legislature and  
23 ensuring that Members of the Senate are focused exclusively on  
24 legislative business at these crucial times in the legislative calendar,  
25 while preserving the ability of the Members to conduct effective

1 campaigns by raising campaign funds at more appropriate times  
 2 of the year; now, therefore, be it  
 3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the  
 4 Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2013–14 Regular Session are  
 5 amended as follows:

6 That Rule 56 is added, to read:

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CONTRIBUTION RESTRICTION PERIODS

10 56. (a) Commencing August 1, 2014, a Member of the Senate  
 11 shall not solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist employer  
 12 during any of the following periods:

13 (1) In each year, the period from the date on which the Director  
 14 of Finance provides to the Legislature a revised estimate of General  
 15 Fund revenues, proposals to reduce expenditures based on that  
 16 revision, and proposed adjustments to the Governor’s Budget  
 17 pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 13308 of the Government  
 18 Code to the date of enactment of a Budget Bill for the fiscal year  
 19 commencing on July 1 of the same year, inclusive.

20 (2) In each odd-numbered year, the period from the date 30 days  
 21 preceding the date the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for a  
 22 joint recess to reconvene in the second calendar year of the  
 23 biennium of the legislative session to the date that adjournment  
 24 occurs, inclusive.

25 (3) In each even-numbered year, the period from August 1 to  
 26 August 31, inclusive.

27 (b) The Senate may take any disciplinary action it deems  
 28 appropriate against a Member of the Senate who violates  
 29 subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, reprimand, censure,  
 30 suspension, or expulsion.

31 (c) For purposes of this rule, “contribution” and “lobbyist  
 32 employer” have the same meanings as set forth in the Political  
 33 Reform Act of 1974 (Title 9 (commencing with Section 81000)  
 of the Government Code).