

Section 32 of the Election Act B.E. 2522 permits each candidate for the House of Representatives to spend money for his campaign up to 350,000 Baht only. Should he spend more than the permitted amount, an interested person may ask the court to revoke the result of an election and seek an order for the new election. In addition, the public prosecutor may also bring the criminal case against such a candidate. Furthermore, according to Section 34, each candidate must submit his details of expenses to the authority within 3 months after the election day or he will be punished. If he is elected, his membership may be revoked.

Practically, movement to amend such provisions on election campaign expenses is in progress in order to:

1. abolish the control of campaign expenses altogether,
2. increase the permitted amount to the actual amount of expenses or
3. specify the permitted amount in the Royal Decree according to each election instead of the Act itself

This thesis finds that the imposition of the election campaign expenses exists in several countries such as the United States of America, Britain and Japan and it can serve as the fair control of each candidate's expenses and encourage the poor to enter into the election without fear of the rich. Such control should therefore be recognized but it should also be more flexible. Thus the third alternative, namely the permitted amount should be provided in the Royal Decree preceding each election, is preferable.