

1 SB206
2 106576-1
3 By Senators Orr, Erwin, and Butler
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Elections
5 First Read: 03-FEB-09

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the filing of campaign
9 finance disclosures is accomplished through the
10 filing of paper documents.

11 This bill would provide an additional
12 procedure for the electronic filing of campaign
13 finance disclosure reports in a computer format for
14 contributions or expenditures of a certain amount
15 and would provide a phase-in period.

16
17 A BILL
18 TO BE ENTITLED
19 AN ACT
20

21 To amend Sections 17-5-8 and 17-5-9, Code of Alabama
22 1975, relating to the filing of campaign finance disclosure
23 reports, to provide an additional procedure for the electronic
24 filing of campaign finance disclosure reports in a computer
25 format for contributions or expenditures of a certain amount
26 and provide a phase-in period.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Sections 17-5-8 and 17-5-9, Code of
2 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

3 "§17-5-8.

4 "(a) Each principal campaign committee or political
5 action committee shall file with the Secretary of State or
6 judge of probate, as designated in Section 17-5-9, reports of
7 contributions and expenditures at the following times in any
8 year in which an election is held:

9 "(1) Between 50 and 45 days before and between 10
10 and five days before the date of any election for which a
11 political action committee or principal campaign committee
12 receives contributions or makes expenditures with a view
13 toward influencing such election's result.

14 "(2) Provided, however, that with regard to a runoff
15 election a report shall not be required except between five
16 and 10 days before the runoff election.

17 "(b) Each principal campaign committee, political
18 action committee, and elected state and local official covered
19 under the provisions of this chapter, shall annually file with
20 the Secretary of State or judge of probate, as designated in
21 Section 17-5-9, reports of contributions and expenditures made
22 during that year. The annual reports required under this
23 subsection shall be made on or before January 31 of the
24 succeeding year.

25 "(c) Each report under this section shall disclose:

1 "(1) The amount of cash or other assets on hand at
2 the beginning of the reporting period and forward until the
3 end of that reporting period and disbursements made from same.

4 "(2) The identification of each person who has made
5 contributions to such committee or candidate within the
6 calendar year in an aggregate amount greater than one hundred
7 dollars (\$100), together with the amount and date of all such
8 contributions; provided, however, in the case of a political
9 action committee identification shall mean the name and city
10 of residence of each person who has made contributions within
11 the calendar year in an aggregate amount greater than one
12 hundred dollars (\$100).

13 "(3) The total amount of other contributions
14 received during the calendar year but not reported under
15 subdivision (c) (2) of this section.

16 "(4) Each loan to or from any person within the
17 calendar year in an aggregate amount greater than one hundred
18 dollars (\$100), together with the identification of the
19 lender, the identification of the endorsers, or guarantors, if
20 any, and the date and amount of such loans.

21 "(5) The total amount of receipts from any other
22 source during such calendar year.

23 "(6) The grand total of all receipts by or for such
24 committee during the calendar year.

25 "(7) The identification of each person to whom
26 expenditures have been made by or on behalf of such committee
27 or elected official within the calendar year in an aggregate

1 amount greater than one hundred dollars (\$100), the amount,
2 date, and purpose of each such expenditure, and, if
3 applicable, the designation of each constitutional amendment
4 or other proposition with respect to which an expenditure was
5 made.

6 "(8) The identification of each person to whom an
7 expenditure for personal services, salaries, and reimbursed
8 expenses greater than one hundred dollars (\$100) has been
9 made, and which is not otherwise reported or exempted from the
10 provisions of this chapter, including the amount, date, and
11 purpose of such expenditure.

12 "(9) The grand total of all expenditures made by
13 such committee or elected official during the calendar year.

14 "(10) The amount and nature of debts and obligations
15 owed by or to the committee or elected official, together with
16 a statement as to the circumstances and conditions under which
17 any such debt or obligation was extinguished and the
18 consideration therefor.

19 "(d) ~~Each~~ Except as provided in subsection (e), each
20 report required by this section shall be signed and filed by
21 the elected official or on behalf of the political action
22 committee by its chair or treasurer and, if filed on behalf of
23 a principal campaign committee, by the candidate represented
24 by such committee. There shall be attached to each such report
25 an affidavit subscribed and sworn to by the official or chair
26 or treasurer and, if filed by a principal campaign committee,
27 the candidate represented by such committee, setting forth in

1 substance that such report is to the best of his or her
2 knowledge and belief in all respects true and complete, and,
3 if made by a candidate, that he or she has not received any
4 contributions or made any expenditures which are not set forth
5 and covered by such report.

6 "(e) Each campaign finance report required by this
7 section which reports contributions or expenditures in an
8 amount greater than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)
9 shall also be submitted electronically over the Internet by a
10 computer file containing the reporting information in a format
11 and medium to be prescribed by the Secretary of State. The
12 Secretary of State shall provide without charge any software
13 necessary to comply with the electronic reporting requirement.
14 The electronic filing requirement is voluntary for four years
15 after the effective date of the act adding this subsection and
16 shall be mandatory after that date. The Secretary of State
17 shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to ensure
18 security, protection of data, and validation of the
19 information in the electronic reports.

20 "§17-5-9.

21 "(a) All statements and reports, including
22 amendments, required of principal campaign committees under
23 the provisions of this chapter shall be filed with the
24 Secretary of State in the case of candidates for state office
25 or state elected officials, and in the case of candidates for
26 local office or local elected officials, with the judge of
27 probate of the county in which the office is sought.

1 "(b) Political action committees, which seek to
2 influence an election for local office or to influence a
3 proposition regarding a single county, shall file all reports
4 and statements, including amendments, with the judge of
5 probate of the county affected. All other political action
6 committees, except as provided in subsection (a) above, shall
7 file reports and statements with the Secretary of State.

8 "(c) In addition to the filing of statements and
9 reports under the provisions of this chapter, campaign
10 contributions and expenditures in an amount greater than
11 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) shall be submitted over
12 the Internet by computer file containing the reporting
13 information in a format and medium to be prescribed by the
14 Secretary of State. The electronic filing requirement is
15 voluntary for four years after the effective date of the act
16 adding this subsection and shall be mandatory after that date.
17 The Secretary of State shall provide without charge any
18 software necessary to comply with the electronic reporting
19 requirement. No supporting documentation is to be attached to
20 the electronic report."

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.