

As Reported by the Senate General Government Committee

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

Sub. H. B. No. 114

Representatives Humphrey, Seitz

Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Williams, Miranda, Blackshear, Brent, Upchurch, McNally, Schmidt, Rogers, Weinstein, Isaacsohn, Brown, Mohamed, Abdullahi, Baker, Brewer, Denson, Dobos, Forhan, Galonski, Grim, Jarrells, Lightbody, Liston, Mathews, Miller, A., Thomas, C.

A BILL

To amend sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.12,
3517.13, 3517.155, and 3517.992 of the Revised
Code to modify the Campaign Finance Law and to
delay the deadline for a major political party
to certify its presidential and vice
presidential candidates to the Secretary of
State for the 2024 general election.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.12,
3517.13, 3517.155, and 3517.992 of the Revised Code be amended
to read as follows:

Sec. 3517.01. (A) (1) A political party within the meaning
of Title XXXV of the Revised Code is any group of voters that
meets either of the following requirements:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, at the
most recent regular state election, the group polled for its
candidate for governor in the state or nominees for presidential

electors at least three per cent of the entire vote cast for 17
that office. A group that meets the requirements of this 18
division remains a political party for a period of four years 19
after meeting those requirements. 20

(b) The group filed with the secretary of state, 21
subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of division 22
(A) (1) (a) of this section, a party formation petition that meets 23
all of the following requirements: 24

(i) The petition is signed by qualified electors equal in 25
number to at least one per cent of the total vote for governor 26
or nominees for presidential electors at the most recent 27
election for such office. 28

(ii) The petition is signed by not fewer than five hundred 29
qualified electors from each of at least a minimum of one-half 30
of the congressional districts in this state. If an odd number 31
of congressional districts exists in this state, the number of 32
districts that results from dividing the number of congressional 33
districts by two shall be rounded up to the next whole number. 34

(iii) The petition declares the petitioners' intention of 35
organizing a political party, the name of which shall be stated 36
in the declaration, and of participating in the succeeding 37
general election, held in even-numbered years, that occurs more 38
than one hundred twenty-five days after the date of filing. 39

(iv) The petition designates a committee of not less than 40
three nor more than five individuals of the petitioners, who 41
shall represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the 42
petition. Notice of all matters or proceedings pertaining to the 43
petition may be served on the committee, or any of them, either 44
personally or by registered mail, or by leaving such notice at 45

the usual place of residence of each of them. 46

(2) No such group of electors shall assume a name or 47
designation that is similar, in the opinion of the secretary of 48
state, to that of an existing political party as to confuse or 49
mislead the voters at an election. 50

(B) A campaign committee shall be legally liable for any 51
debts, contracts, or expenditures incurred or executed in its 52
name. 53

(C) Notwithstanding the definitions found in section 54
3501.01 of the Revised Code, as used in this section and 55
sections 3517.08 to 3517.14, 3517.99, and 3517.992 of the 56
Revised Code: 57

(1) "Campaign committee" means a candidate or a 58
combination of two or more persons authorized by a candidate 59
under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code to receive 60
contributions and make expenditures. 61

(2) "Campaign treasurer" means an individual appointed by 62
a candidate under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code. 63

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in division (H) of 64
section 3501.01 of the Revised Code and also includes any person 65
who, at any time before or after an election, receives 66
contributions or makes expenditures or other use of 67
contributions, has given consent for another to receive 68
contributions or make expenditures or other use of 69
contributions, or appoints a campaign treasurer, for the purpose 70
of bringing about the person's nomination or election to public 71
office. When two persons jointly seek the offices of governor 72
and lieutenant governor, "candidate" means the pair of 73
candidates jointly. "Candidate" does not include candidates for 74

election to the offices of member of a county or state central 75
committee, presidential elector, and delegate to a national 76
convention or conference of a political party. 77

(4) "Continuing association" means an association, other 78
than a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign 79
fund, political contributing entity, or labor organization, that 80
is intended to be a permanent organization that has a primary 81
purpose other than supporting or opposing specific candidates, 82
political parties, or ballot issues, and that functions on a 83
regular basis throughout the year. "Continuing association" 84
includes organizations that are determined to be not organized 85
for profit under subsection 501 and that are described in 86
subsection 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal 87
Revenue Code. 88

(5) "Contribution" means a loan, gift, deposit, 89
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 90
transfer of funds or anything of value, including a transfer of 91
funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 92
estate, and the payment by any person other than the person to 93
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 94
another person, which contribution is made, received, or used 95
for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. Any 96
loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, 97
advance, payment, or transfer of funds or of anything of value, 98
including a transfer of funds from an inter vivos or 99
testamentary trust or decedent's estate, and the payment by any 100
campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 101
campaign fund, political party, political contributing entity, 102
or person other than the person to whom the services are 103
rendered for the personal services of another person, that is 104
made, received, or used by a state or county political party, 105

other than the moneys an entity may receive under sections 106
3517.101, 3517.1012, and 3517.1013 of the Revised Code, shall be 107
considered to be a "contribution" for the purpose of section 108
3517.10 of the Revised Code and shall be included on a statement 109
of contributions filed under that section. 110

"Contribution" does not include any of the following: 111

(a) Services provided without compensation by individuals 112
volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a 113
person; 114

(b) Ordinary home hospitality; 115

(c) The personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that 116
volunteer campaign worker; 117

(d) Any gift given to an entity pursuant to section 118
3517.101 of the Revised Code; 119

(e) Any contribution as defined in section 3517.1011 of 120
the Revised Code that is made, received, or used to pay the 121
direct costs of producing or airing an electioneering 122
communication; 123

(f) Any gift given to a state or county political party 124
for the party's restricted fund under division (A) (2) of section 125
3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 126

(g) Any gift given to a state political party for deposit 127
in a Levin account pursuant to section 3517.1013 of the Revised 128
Code. As used in this division, "Levin account" has the same 129
meaning as in that section. 130

(h) Any donation given to a transition fund under section 131
3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 132

(6) "Expenditure" means the disbursement or use of a contribution or other funds for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or of making a charitable donation under division (G) of section 3517.08 of the Revised Code. Any disbursement or use of a contribution by a state or county political party is an expenditure and shall be considered either to be made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or to be made as a charitable donation under division (G) of section 3517.08 of the Revised Code and shall be reported on a statement of expenditures filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. During the thirty days preceding a primary or general election, any disbursement to pay the direct costs of producing or airing a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate shall be considered to be made for the purpose of influencing the results of that election and shall be reported as an expenditure or as an independent expenditure under section 3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised Code, as applicable, except that the information required to be reported regarding contributors for those expenditures or independent expenditures shall be the same as the information required to be reported under divisions (D)(1) and (2) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code.

As used in this division, "broadcast, cable, or satellite communication" and "refers to a clearly identified candidate" have the same meanings as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code.

(7) "Personal expenses" includes, but is not limited to, ordinary expenses for accommodations, clothing, food, personal motor vehicle or airplane, and home telephone.

(8) "Political action committee" means a combination of 163
two or more persons, the primary or major purpose of which is to 164
support or oppose any candidate, political party, or issue, or 165
to influence the result of any election through express 166
advocacy, and that is not a political party, a campaign 167
committee, a political contributing entity, or a legislative 168
campaign fund. "Political action committee" does not include 169
either of the following: 170

(a) A continuing association that makes disbursements for 171
the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 172
communications and that does not engage in express advocacy; 173

(b) A political club that is formed primarily for social 174
purposes and that consists of one hundred members or less, has 175
officers and periodic meetings, has less than two thousand five 176
hundred dollars in its treasury at all times, and makes an 177
aggregate total contribution of one thousand dollars or less per 178
calendar year. 179

(9) "Public office" means any state, county, municipal, 180
township, or district office, except an office of a political 181
party, that is filled by an election and the offices of United 182
States senator and representative. 183

(10) "Anything of value" has the same meaning as in 184
section 1.03 of the Revised Code. 185

(11) "Beneficiary of a campaign fund" means a candidate, a 186
public official or employee for whose benefit a campaign fund 187
exists, and any other person who has ever been a candidate or 188
public official or employee and for whose benefit a campaign 189
fund exists. 190

(12) "Campaign fund" means money or other property, 191

including contributions. 192

(13) "Public official or employee" has the same meaning as 193
in section 102.01 of the Revised Code. 194

(14) "Caucus" means all of the members of the house of 195
representatives or all of the members of the senate of the 196
general assembly who are members of the same political party. 197

(15) "Legislative campaign fund" means a fund that is 198
established as an auxiliary of a state political party and 199
associated with one of the houses of the general assembly. 200

(16) "In-kind contribution" means anything of value other 201
than money that is used to influence the results of an election 202
or is transferred to or used in support of or in opposition to a 203
candidate, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 204
political party, political action committee, or political 205
contributing entity and that is made with the consent of, in 206
coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the 207
request or suggestion of the benefited candidate, committee, 208
fund, party, or entity. The financing of the dissemination, 209
distribution, or republication, in whole or part, of any 210
broadcast or of any written, graphic, or other form of campaign 211
materials prepared by the candidate, the candidate's campaign 212
committee, or their authorized agents is an in-kind contribution 213
to the candidate and an expenditure by the candidate. 214

~~(17)~~ (17) (a) "Independent expenditure" means ~~an either of~~ 215
the following: 216

(i) An expenditure by a person advocating the election or 217
defeat of an identified candidate or candidates, that is not 218
made with the consent of, in coordination, cooperation, or 219
consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of any 220

candidate or candidates or of the campaign committee or agent of 221
the candidate or candidates; 222

(ii) An expenditure by a person advocating support of or 223
opposition to an identified ballot issue or question or to 224
achieve the successful circulation of an initiative or 225
referendum petition in order to place such an issue or question 226
on the ballot, regardless of whether the ballot issue or 227
question has yet been certified to appear on the ballot. As- 228

(b) As used in division ~~(C) (17)~~ (C) (17) (a) of this 229
section: 230

~~(a)~~ (i) "Person" means an individual, partnership, 231
unincorporated business organization or association, political 232
action committee, political contributing entity, separate 233
segregated fund, association, or other organization or group of 234
persons, but not a labor organization or a corporation unless 235
the labor organization or corporation is a political 236
contributing entity. 237

~~(b)~~ (ii) "Advocating" means any communication containing a 238
message advocating election or defeat. 239

~~(c)~~ (iii) "Identified candidate" means that the name of 240
the candidate appears, a photograph or drawing of the candidate 241
appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent 242
by unambiguous reference. 243

~~(d)~~ (iv) "Made in coordination, cooperation, or 244
consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, any 245
candidate or the campaign committee or agent of the candidate" 246
means made pursuant to any arrangement, coordination, or 247
direction by the candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, 248
or the candidate's agent prior to the publication, distribution, 249

display, or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure is 250
presumed to be so made when it is any of the following: 251

~~(i)~~ (I) Based on information about the candidate's plans, 252
projects, or needs provided to the person making the expenditure 253
by the candidate, or by the candidate's campaign committee or 254
agent, with a view toward having an expenditure made; 255

~~(ii)~~ (II) Made by or through any person who is, or has 256
been, authorized to raise or expend funds, who is, or has been, 257
an officer of the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or 258
has been, receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement 259
from the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or 260
agent; 261

~~(iii)~~ (III) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) 262
of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code, made by a political 263
party in support of a candidate, unless the expenditure is made 264
by a political party to conduct voter registration or voter 265
education efforts. 266

~~(e)~~ (v) "Agent" means any person who has actual oral or 267
written authority, either express or implied, to make or to 268
authorize the making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate, 269
or means any person who has been placed in a position with the 270
candidate's campaign committee or organization such that it 271
would reasonably appear that in the ordinary course of campaign- 272
related activities the person may authorize expenditures. 273

(18) "Labor organization" means a labor union; an employee 274
organization; a federation of labor unions, groups, locals, or 275
other employee organizations; an auxiliary of a labor union, 276
employee organization, or federation of labor unions, groups, 277
locals, or other employee organizations; or any other bona fide 278

organization in which employees participate and that exists for 279
the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers 280
concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours, and other 281
terms and conditions of employment. 282

(19) "Separate segregated fund" means a separate 283
segregated fund established pursuant to the Federal Election 284
Campaign Act. 285

(20) "Federal Election Campaign Act" means the "Federal 286
Election Campaign Act of 1971," 86 Stat. 11, 2 U.S.C.A. 431, et 287
seq., as amended. 288

(21) "Restricted fund" means the fund a state or county 289
political party must establish under division (A) (1) of section 290
3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 291

(22) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning 292
as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 293

(23) "Express advocacy" means a communication that 294
contains express words advocating the nomination, election, or 295
defeat of a candidate or that contains express words advocating 296
the adoption or defeat of a question or issue, as determined by 297
a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 298

(24) "Political committee" has the same meaning as in 299
section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 300

(25) "Political contributing entity" means any entity, 301
including a corporation or labor organization, that may lawfully 302
make contributions and expenditures and that is not an 303
individual or a political action committee, continuing 304
association, campaign committee, political party, legislative 305
campaign fund, designated state campaign committee, or state 306
candidate fund. For purposes of this division, "lawfully" means 307

not prohibited by any section of the Revised Code, or authorized 308
by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 309

(26) "Internet identifier of record" has the same meaning 310
as in section 9.312 of the Revised Code. 311

Sec. 3517.10. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 312
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 313
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 314
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 315
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 316
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 317
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on 318
a form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 319
transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 320
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made 321
under penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail 322
the contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of 323
the following dates: 324

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 325
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 326
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 327
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 328
before the election; 329

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect 330
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 331
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 332
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh 333
day before the filing of the statement; 334

(3) The last business day of January of every year to 335
reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from 336

the close of business on the last day reflected in the last 337
previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on 338
the last day of December of the previous year; 339

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 340
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 341
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 342
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last 343
day of June of that year. 344

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 345
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 346
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 347
committee's candidate. 348

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this 349
section shall not be required of any campaign committee, 350
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 351
party, or political contributing entity that has received 352
contributions of less than one thousand dollars and has made 353
expenditures of less than one thousand dollars at the close of 354
business on the twentieth day before the election. Those 355
contributions and expenditures shall be reported in the 356
statement required under division (A)(2) of this section. 357

If an election to select candidates to appear on the 358
general election ballot is held within sixty days before a 359
general election, the campaign committee of a successful 360
candidate in the earlier election may file the statement 361
required by division (A)(1) of this section for the general 362
election instead of the statement required by division (A)(2) of 363
this section for the earlier election if the pregeneral election 364
statement reflects the status of contributions and expenditures 365
for the period twenty days before the earlier election to twenty 366

days before the general election. 367

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days 368
before an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not 369
required to file the statement required by division (A) (1) of 370
this section. 371

No statement under division (A) (3) of this section shall 372
be required for any year in which a campaign committee, 373
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 374
party, or political contributing entity is required to file a 375
postgeneral election statement under division (A) (2) of this 376
section. However, a statement under division (A) (3) of this 377
section may be filed, at the option of the campaign committee, 378
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 379
party, or political contributing entity. 380

No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 381
chief justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign 382
committee of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in 383
this state, shall be required to file a statement under division 384
(A) (4) of this section. 385

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the 386
next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees 387
required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this 388
section are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and 389
the campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The 390
campaign committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial 391
office is required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of 392
this section if that campaign committee receives, during that 393
period, contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars. 394

No statement under division (A) (4) of this section shall 395

be required of a campaign committee, a political action 396
committee, a legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a 397
political contributing entity for any year in which the campaign 398
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 399
fund, political party, or political contributing entity is 400
required to file a postprimary election statement under division 401
(A) (2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A) 402
(4) of this section may be filed at the option of the campaign 403
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 404
fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 405

No statement under division (A) (3) or (4) of this section 406
shall be required if the campaign committee, political action 407
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 408
political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 409
received and no expenditures that it has made since the last 410
date reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, 411
the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 412
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 413
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed 414
under this section and made under penalty of election 415
falsification, on the date required in division (A) (3) or (4) of 416
this section, as applicable. 417

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file 418
a monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 419
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 420
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 421
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 422
statement not later than three business days after the last day 423
of the month covered by the statement. During the period 424
beginning on the nineteenth day before the general election in 425
which a statewide candidate seeks election to office and 426

extending through the day of that general election, each time 427
the campaign committee of the joint candidates for the offices 428
of governor and lieutenant governor or of a candidate for the 429
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 430
state, or attorney general receives a contribution from a 431
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 432
received from that contributor during that period to equal or 433
exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign committee 434
of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the 435
supreme court receives a contribution from a contributor that 436
causes the aggregate amount of contributions received from that 437
contributor during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, 438
the campaign committee shall file a two-business-day statement 439
reflecting that contribution. Contributions reported on a two- 440
business-day statement required to be filed by a campaign 441
committee of a statewide candidate in a primary election shall 442
also be included in the postprimary election statement required 443
to be filed by that campaign committee under division (A)(2) of 444
this section. A two-business-day statement required by this 445
paragraph shall be filed not later than two business days after 446
receipt of the contribution. The statements required by this 447
paragraph shall be filed in addition to any other statements 448
required by this section. 449

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 450
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 451
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C)(6)(b) 452
and (D)(6) of this section and division (F)(1) of section 453
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 454
statements by electronic means of transmission, a campaign 455
committee of a statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day 456
statement under the preceding paragraph by electronic means of 457

transmission if the campaign committee is required to file a 458
pre-election, postelection, or monthly statement of 459
contributions and expenditures by electronic means of 460
transmission under this section or section 3517.106 of the 461
Revised Code. 462

If a campaign committee or political action committee has 463
no balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 464
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 465
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 466
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 467
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a 468
final statement of contributions and a final statement of 469
expenditures, if contributions have been received or 470
expenditures made since the period reflected in its last 471
previously filed statement. 472

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (7) of 473
this section, each statement required by division (A) of this 474
section shall contain the following information: 475

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 476
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 477
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 478
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 479
and expenditure statement; 480

(2) (a) In the case of a campaign committee, the 481
candidate's full name and address; 482

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 483
registration number assigned to the committee under division (D) 484
(1) of this section. 485

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be 486

a general, primary, or special election; 487

(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall 488
include the following information: 489

(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 490

(b) (i) The full name and address of each person, political 491
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 492
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom 493
contributions are received and the registration number assigned 494
to the political action committee under division (D) (1) of this 495
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not 496
apply to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a 497
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to 498
a committee recognized by a state or local committee as its 499
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this 500
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be 501
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address 502
the contributor provided under division (E) (1) of this section. 503

(ii) If a political action committee, political 504
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 505
party that is required to file campaign finance statements by 506
electronic means of transmission under section 3517.106 of the 507
Revised Code or a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 508
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 509
receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one 510
hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, 511
if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 512
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any; 513

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 514
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 515

receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 516
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 517
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 518
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 519
(A)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 520
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization 521
of which the employees are members, if any. 522

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other 523
than money; 524

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 525

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and 526
expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a 527
contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or 528
less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a 529
contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the 530
Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries 531
of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from 532
the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars 533
or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total 534
contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall 535
include a description of and the value of each in-kind 536
contribution received at that activity from any person who made 537
one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded 538
two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, 539
together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with 540
that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, 541
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 542
contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from 543
each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one 544
social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts 545

deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the 546
wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five 547
dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing 548
association that is recognized by a state or local committee of 549
a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a 550
contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by 551
members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or 552
address of any members who paid those dues. 553

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized 554
separately from all other contributions. The information 555
required under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided 556
for all other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other 557
income" means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 558

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected 559
officer, if a person doing business with the state elected 560
officer in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution 561
to the campaign committee of that officer, the information 562
required under division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that 563
contribution, which shall be filed together with and considered 564
a part of the committee's statement of contributions as required 565
under division (A) of this section but shall be filed on a 566
separate form provided by the secretary of state. As used in 567
this division: 568

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in 569
section 3517.092 of the Revised Code. 570

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer 571
of an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state 572
elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on 573
behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or 574
services, if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than 575

five thousand dollars during a calendar year. 576

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the 577
following information: 578

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure; 579

(b) The full name and address of each person, political 580
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 581
action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the 582
expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the 583
political action committee under division (D) (1) of this 584
section; 585

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was 586
made; 587

(d) The amount of each expenditure. 588

(C) (1) The statement of contributions and expenditures 589
shall be signed by the person completing the form. If a 590
statement of contributions and expenditures is filed by 591
electronic means of transmission pursuant to this section or 592
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the electronic signature 593
of the person who executes the statement and transmits the 594
statement by electronic means of transmission, as provided in 595
division (F) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall be 596
attached to or associated with the statement and shall be 597
binding on all persons and for all purposes under the campaign 598
finance reporting law as if the signature had been handwritten 599
in ink on a printed form. 600

(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of 601
election falsification, shall include with it a both of the 602
following: 603

(a) A list of each anonymous contribution, the 604
circumstances under which it was received, and the reason it 605
cannot be attributed to a specific donor; 606

(b) A certification that the campaign committee, political 607
action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 608
political contributing entity, as applicable, has not knowingly 609
accepted any contribution that is prohibited under this chapter 610
or section 3599.03 or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, including 611
under division (W) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, 612
during the period covered by the statement. 613

(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate 614
who holds public office shall contain a designation of each 615
contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under 616
the candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space 617
provided in the statement, the person filing the statement shall 618
affirm that each such contribution was voluntarily made. 619

(4) A campaign committee that did not receive 620
contributions or make expenditures in connection with the 621
nomination or election of its candidate shall file a statement 622
to that effect, on a form prescribed under this section and made 623
under penalty of election falsification, on the date required in 624
division (A) (2) of this section. 625

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to 626
become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become 627
certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for 628
placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or 629
special election to be held in this state, and who, at any time 630
prior to or after an election, receives contributions or makes 631
expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive 632
contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing 633

about the person's nomination or election to public office, 634
shall file the statement or statements prescribed by this 635
section and a termination statement, if applicable. Division (C) 636
(5) of this section does not apply to any person with respect to 637
an election to the offices of member of a county or state 638
central committee, presidential elector, or delegate to a 639
national convention or conference of a political party. 640

(6) (a) The statements required to be filed under this 641
section shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign 642
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 643
fund, political party, or political contributing entity and the 644
disposition intended to be made of that balance. 645

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for 646
all statements required to be filed under this section and shall 647
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 648
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 649
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall 650
prescribe the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file 651
structure for statements required or permitted to be filed by 652
electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state or a 653
board of elections under division (A) of this section, division 654
(E) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, 655
division (B) of section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 656
3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the 657
Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this section, division 658
(E) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, 659
division (B) of section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 660
3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the 661
Revised Code, the statements required to be stored on computer 662
by the secretary of state under division (B) of section 3517.106 663
of the Revised Code shall be filed in whatever format the 664

secretary of state considers necessary to enable the secretary 665
of state to store the information contained in the statements on 666
computer. Any such format shall be of a type and nature that is 667
readily available to whoever is required to file the statements 668
in that format. 669

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for 670
training regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by 671
electronic means of transmission and regarding associated 672
technologies for candidates, campaign committees, political 673
action committees, legislative campaign funds, political 674
parties, or political contributing entities, for individuals, 675
partnerships, or other entities, for persons making 676
disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or airing 677
electioneering communications, or for treasurers of transition 678
funds, required or permitted to file statements by electronic 679
means of transmission under this section or section 3517.105, 680
3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the 681
Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the secretary of state, 682
training in these areas is necessary, the secretary of state 683
shall arrange for the provision of voluntary training programs 684
for candidates, campaign committees, political action 685
committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, or 686
political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 687
and other entities, for persons making disbursements to pay the 688
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 689
communications, or for treasurers of transition funds, as 690
appropriate. 691

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 692
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 693
the information required by divisions (B)(1) to (4), (C)(2), 694
and, if appropriate, (C)(3) of this section. Each statement 695

shall be signed as required by division (C) (1) of this section. 696

(D) (1) (a) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 697
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action 698
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 699
political contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and 700
shall file, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, a 701
designation of that appointment, including the full name and 702
address of the treasurer and of the campaign committee, 703
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 704
party, or political contributing entity. That designation shall 705
be filed with the official with whom the campaign committee, 706
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 707
party, or political contributing entity is required to file 708
statements under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name 709
of a campaign committee shall include at least the last name of 710
the campaign committee's candidate. If two or more candidates 711
are the beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under 712
division (B) of section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name 713
of the campaign committee shall include at least the last name 714
of each candidate who is a beneficiary of that campaign 715
committee. The secretary of state shall assign a registration 716
number to each political action committee that files a 717
designation of the appointment of a treasurer under this 718
division if the political action committee is required by 719
division (A) (1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code to file 720
the statements prescribed by this section with the secretary of 721
state. 722

(b) The form of the designation of treasurer shall require 723
the filer to certify, under penalty of election falsification, 724
that the campaign committee, political action committee, 725
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 726

contributing entity, as applicable, has not knowingly accepted, 727
and will not knowingly accept, any contribution that is 728
prohibited under this chapter or section 3599.03 or 3599.031 of 729
the Revised Code, including under division (W) of section 730
3517.13 of the Revised Code. 731

(c) The secretary of state shall not accept for filing a 732
designation of treasurer of a political action committee or 733
political contributing entity if, in the opinion of the 734
secretary of state, the name of the political action committee 735
or political contributing entity would lead a reasonable person 736
to believe that the political action committee or political 737
contributing entity acts on behalf of or represents a county 738
political party, unless the designation is accompanied by a 739
written statement, signed by the chairperson of the county 740
political party's executive committee, granting the political 741
action committee or political contributing entity permission to 742
act on behalf of or represent the county political party. 743

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D)(1) of this 744
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 745
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 746

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 747
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all 748
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 749
separate from a personal or business account of the candidate or 750
campaign committee. 751

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all 752
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 753
separate from all other funds. 754

(c) A state or county political party may establish a 755

state candidate fund that is separate from all other funds. A 756
state or county political party may deposit into its state 757
candidate fund any amounts of monetary contributions that are 758
made to or accepted by the political party subject to the 759
applicable limitations, if any, prescribed in section 3517.102 760
of the Revised Code. A state or county political party shall 761
deposit all other monetary contributions received by the party 762
into one or more accounts that are separate from its state 763
candidate fund. 764

(d) Each state political party shall have only one 765
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general 766
assembly. Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds 767
or accounts of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is 768
authorized to receive contributions and make expenditures for 769
the primary purpose of furthering the election of candidates who 770
are members of that political party to the house of the general 771
assembly with which that legislative campaign fund is 772
associated. Each legislative campaign fund shall be administered 773
and controlled in a manner designated by the caucus. As used in 774
this division, "caucus" has the same meaning as in section 775
3517.01 of the Revised Code and includes, as an ex officio 776
member, the chairperson of the state political party with which 777
the caucus is associated or that chairperson's designee. 778

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars 779
shall be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of 780
the expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of 781
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of 782
the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division (D) 783
(4) of this section. 784

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as 785

the case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed 786
under this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for 787
a period of at least six years. All statements filed under this 788
section shall be open to public inspection in the office where 789
they are filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of 790
at least six years after the year in which they are filed. 791

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 792
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 793
following: 794

(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and 795
time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are 796
transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary 797
of state or a board of elections pursuant to this section or 798
section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 799
of the Revised Code; 800

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and 801
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 802
disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 803
disbursement information in the statements described in division 804
(D) (6) (a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve 805
the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 806
deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 807
disbursement information in those statements for at least ten 808
years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means 809
of transmission. 810

(7) (a) The secretary of state, pursuant to division (G) of 811
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available 812
online to the public through the internet the contribution and 813
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 814
disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 815

disbursement information in all of the following documents: 816

(i) All statements, all addenda, amendments, or other 817
corrections to statements, and all amended statements filed with 818
the secretary of state by electronic or other means of 819
transmission under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) 820
of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 821
3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code; 822

(ii) All statements filed with a board of elections by 823
electronic means of transmission, and all addenda, amendments, 824
corrections, and amended versions of those statements, filed 825
with the board under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) 826
(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1012, or 827
3517.11 of the Revised Code. 828

(b) The secretary of state may remove the information from 829
the internet after a reasonable period of time. 830

(E) (1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 831
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 832
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 833
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or 834
in connection with any ballot issue or question at any election 835
held or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 836
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 837
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 838
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 839
division (D) (1) of this section to the recipient of the 840
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 841

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds 842
one hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 843
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 844

party or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 845
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly shall 846
provide the name of the individual's current employer, if any, 847
or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 848
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, to 849
the recipient of the contribution at the time the contribution 850
is made. Sections 3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not 851
apply to division (E)(2) of this section. 852

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised 853
its best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 854
required under divisions (B)(4)(b)(ii) and (iii) of this 855
section, that committee is considered to have met the 856
requirements of those divisions. A campaign committee shall not 857
be considered to have exercised its best efforts unless, in 858
connection with written solicitations, it regularly includes a 859
written request for the information required under division (B) 860
(4)(b)(ii) of this section from the contributor or the 861
information required under division (B)(4)(b)(iii) of this 862
section from whoever transmits the contribution. 863

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to 864
make a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full 865
name and address of the committee and the registration number 866
assigned to the committee under division (D)(1) of this section. 867

(F) As used in this section: 868

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of 869
this section, "address" means all of the following if they 870
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and 871
number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and 872
zip code as used in a person's post-office address, but not 873
post-office box. 874

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of 875
this section, if an address is required in this section, a post- 876
office box and office, room, or suite number may be included in 877
addition to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or 878
highway name and number. 879

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 880
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 881
fund, political party, or political contributing entity may use 882
the business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 883
treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 884
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 885
party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition 886
to that address. 887

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's 888
reporting of contributions on a statement of contributions 889
received under division (B)(4) of this section, "address" has 890
one of the following meanings at the option of the campaign 891
committee: 892

(i) The same meaning as in division (F)(1)(a) of this 893
section; 894

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the 895
contributor's post-office box number and city or village, state, 896
and zip code as used in the contributor's post-office address. 897

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this 898
section of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following 899
if they exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name 900
and number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, 901
and zip code as used in a person's post-office address, or post- 902
office box. If an address concerning any expenditure is required 903

in this section, a campaign committee, political action 904
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 905
political contributing entity may use the business or residence 906
address of its treasurer or deputy treasurer or its post-office 907
box number. 908

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for 909
the offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate 910
for the office of secretary of state, auditor of state, 911
treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state board 912
of education, chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of 913
the supreme court. 914

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for 915
the office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the 916
court of common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas, 917
sheriff, county recorder, county engineer, county commissioner, 918
prosecuting attorney, or coroner. 919

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever 920
and in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be 921
reported under this section and shall be reported pursuant to 922
division (B) (2) (a) or (C) (2) (a) of section 3517.105 of the 923
Revised Code. 924

(H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (2) of 925
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and 926
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign 927
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or 928
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five 929
hundred dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect, 930
under penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the 931
statement required by division (A) (2) of this section. The 932
statement shall indicate the total amount of contributions 933

received and the total amount of expenditures made during those 934
combined reporting periods. 935

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 936
election, if either the total contributions received by or the 937
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee 938
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral 939
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars, 940
the campaign committee may file the statement under division (H) 941
(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first 942
statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 943
general election shall reflect all contributions received and 944
all expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary 945
election periods. 946

(3) Divisions (H) (1) and (2) of this section do not apply 947
if a campaign committee receives contributions or makes 948
expenditures prior to the first day of January of the year of 949
the election at which the candidate seeks nomination or election 950
to office or if the campaign committee does not file a 951
termination statement with its postprimary election statement in 952
the case of an unsuccessful primary election candidate or with 953
its postgeneral election statement in the case of other 954
candidates. 955

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 956
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 957
business from any funds of the partnership or other 958
unincorporated business, all of the following apply: 959

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 960
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 961
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 962
member making the contribution. 963

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 964
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 965
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 966
business, provided that the information includes one of the 967
following: 968

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 969
date of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that 970
the total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of 971
the partners, owners, or members; or 972

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 973
date of the contribution or contributions who is participating 974
in the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 975
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 976
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 977
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 978
the contribution. 979

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, 980
the contribution shall be considered to have been made by the 981
partner, owner, or member reported under division (I)(1) of this 982
section. 983

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 984
owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 985
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other 986
unincorporated business unless the recipient reports the 987
contribution under division (I)(1) of this section together with 988
the information provided under division (I)(2) of this section. 989

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 990
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 991
partnership or other unincorporated business. 992

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership 993
or other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited 994
to, a cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, 995
a limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a 996
limited liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 997

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at 998
any given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 999
candidate or holds office. 1000

(K) (1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment 1001
of a treasurer under division (D) (1) of this section, the 1002
campaign committee of any candidate for an elected municipal 1003
office that pays an annual amount of compensation of five 1004
thousand dollars or less, the campaign committee of any 1005
candidate for member of a board of education except member of 1006
the state board of education, or the campaign committee of any 1007
candidate for township trustee or township fiscal officer may 1008
sign, under penalty of election falsification, a certificate 1009
attesting that the committee will not accept contributions 1010
during an election period that exceed in the aggregate two 1011
thousand dollars from all contributors and one hundred dollars 1012
from any one individual, and that the campaign committee will 1013
not make expenditures during an election period that exceed in 1014
the aggregate two thousand dollars. 1015

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 1016
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 1017
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and 1018
petition, a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to 1019
be a write-in candidate. 1020

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K) (3) of 1021
this section, a campaign committee that files a certificate 1022

under division (K) (1) of this section is not required to file 1023
the statements required by division (A) of this section. 1024

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K) (1) 1025
of this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the 1026
limitations described in that division during an election 1027
period, the certificate is void and thereafter the campaign 1028
committee shall file the statements required by division (A) of 1029
this section. If the campaign committee has not previously filed 1030
a statement, then on the first statement the campaign committee 1031
is required to file under division (A) of this section after the 1032
committee's certificate is void, the committee shall report all 1033
contributions received and expenditures made from the time the 1034
candidate filed the candidate's declaration of candidacy and 1035
petition, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a 1036
write-in candidate. 1037

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 1038
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 1039
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 1040
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 1041
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 1042
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 1043
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 1044
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 1045

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 1046
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other 1047
assessments of its members or from its officers, shareholders, 1048
and employees may report the aggregate amount of contributions 1049
received from those contributors and the number of individuals 1050
making those contributions, for each filing period under 1051
divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, rather than 1052

reporting information as required under division (B) (4) of this 1053
section, including, when applicable, the name of the current 1054
employer, if any, of a contributor whose contribution exceeds 1055
one hundred dollars or, if such a contributor is self-employed, 1056
the contributor's occupation and the name of the contributor's 1057
business, if any. Division (B) (4) of this section applies to a 1058
political contributing entity with regard to contributions it 1059
receives from all other contributors. 1060

Sec. 3517.12. (A) ~~Prior to receiving a contribution or~~ 1061
~~making an expenditure, the circulator or~~ If the committee in 1062
charge of an initiative or referendum petition, or supplementary 1063
petition for additional signatures, for the submission to the 1064
electors of a ~~constitutional amendment, proposed law, section,~~ 1065
~~or item of any law~~ ballot issue or question receives a 1066
contribution or makes an expenditure for the purpose of 1067
achieving the successful circulation of the petition, the 1068
committee is considered a political action committee for that 1069
purpose and shall appoint a treasurer and shall file with the 1070
~~secretary of state, on a form prescribed by the secretary of~~ 1071
~~state, a designation of that appointment, including the full~~ 1072
~~name and address of the treasurer and of the circulator or~~ 1073
~~committee~~ comply with all applicable requirements of this 1074
chapter concerning political action committees, including filing 1075
a designation of treasurer under division (D) of section 3517.10 1076
of the Revised Code before receiving a contribution or making an 1077
expenditure and filing all required statements of contributions 1078
and expenditures. 1079

(B) ~~The circulator or~~ If the committee in charge of an 1080
initiative or referendum petition, or supplementary petition for 1081
additional signatures, for the submission to the electors of a 1082
~~constitutional amendment, proposed law, section, or item of any~~ 1083

~~law-ballot issue or question receives no contributions and makes~~ 1084
~~no expenditures for the purpose of achieving the successful~~ 1085
~~circulation of the petition, and is not otherwise considered a~~ 1086
~~campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund,~~ 1087
~~political action committee, or political contributing entity,~~ 1088
~~then the committee shall, within thirty days after those the~~ 1089
~~petition papers are is filed, file with the secretary of state~~ 1090
~~office with which the petition is filed, on a form prescribed by~~ 1091
~~the secretary of state, an itemized a statement, made under~~ 1092
~~penalty of election falsification, showing in detail the~~ 1093
~~following:~~ 1094

~~(1) All money or things of value paid, given, promised, or~~ 1095
~~received for circulating the petitions;~~ 1096

~~(2) All appointments, promotions, or increases in salary,~~ 1097
~~in positions which were given, promised, or received, or to~~ 1098
~~obtain which assistance was given, promised, or received as a~~ 1099
~~consideration for work done in circulating petitions;~~ 1100

~~(3) Full names and addresses, including street, city, and~~ 1101
~~state, of all persons to whom such payments or promises were~~ 1102
~~made and of all persons from whom such payments or promises were~~ 1103
~~received;~~ 1104

~~(4) Full names and addresses, including street, city, and~~ 1105
~~state, of all persons who contributed anything of value to be~~ 1106
~~used in circulating the petitions, and the amounts of those~~ 1107
~~contributions;~~ 1108

~~(5) Time spent and salaries earned while soliciting~~ 1109
~~signatures to petitions by persons who were regular salaried~~ 1110
~~employees of some person or whom that employer authorized to~~ 1111
~~solicit as part of their regular duties.~~ 1112

~~If that the committee received no money or things of~~ 1113
~~value were paid or received or if no promises were made or~~ 1114
~~received as a consideration for work done in circulating a~~ 1115
~~petition, the statement shall contain words to that effect~~ 1116
~~contributions and made no expenditures for the purpose of~~ 1117
~~achieving the successful circulation of the petition.~~ 1118

~~(C) The treasurer designated under division (A) of this~~ 1119
~~section shall file statements of contributions and expenditures~~ 1120
~~in accordance with section 3517.10 of the Revised Code regarding~~ 1121
~~all contributions made or received and all expenditures made by~~ 1122
~~that treasurer or the circulator or committee in connection with~~ 1123
~~the initiative or referendum petition, or supplementary petition~~ 1124
~~for additional signatures, for the submission of a~~ 1125
~~constitutional amendment, proposed law, section, or item of any~~ 1126
~~law.~~ 1127

Sec. 3517.13. (A) (1) No campaign committee of a statewide 1128
candidate shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement 1129
required under division (A) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1130
Code. 1131

(2) No campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall 1132
fail to file a complete and accurate monthly statement, and no 1133
campaign committee of a statewide candidate or a candidate for 1134
the office of chief justice or justice of the supreme court 1135
shall fail to file a complete and accurate two-business-day 1136
statement, as required under section 3517.10 of the Revised 1137
Code. 1138

As used in this division, "statewide candidate" has the 1139
same meaning as in division (F) (2) of section 3517.10 of the 1140
Revised Code. 1141

(B) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete 1142
and accurate statement required under division (A) (1) of section 1143
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1144

(C) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete 1145
and accurate statement required under division (A) (2) of section 1146
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1147

(D) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete 1148
and accurate statement required under division (A) (3) or (4) of 1149
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1150

(E) No person other than a campaign committee shall 1151
knowingly fail to file a statement required under section 1152
3517.10 or 3517.107 of the Revised Code. 1153

(F) No person shall make cash contributions to any person 1154
totaling more than one hundred dollars in each primary, special, 1155
or general election. 1156

(G) (1) No person shall knowingly conceal or misrepresent 1157
contributions given or received, expenditures made, or any other 1158
information required to be reported by a provision in sections 1159
3517.08 to 3517.13 of the Revised Code. 1160

(2) (a) No person shall make a contribution to a campaign 1161
committee, political action committee, political contributing 1162
entity, legislative campaign fund, political party, or person 1163
making disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or 1164
airing electioneering communications in the name of another 1165
person. 1166

(b) A person does not make a contribution in the name of 1167
another when either of the following applies: 1168

(i) An individual makes a contribution from a partnership 1169

or other unincorporated business account, if the contribution is 1170
reported by listing both the name of the partnership or other 1171
unincorporated business and the name of the partner or owner 1172
making the contribution as required under division (I) of 1173
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1174

(ii) A person makes a contribution in that person's 1175
spouse's name or in both of their names. 1176

(H) No person within this state, publishing a newspaper or 1177
other periodical, shall charge a campaign committee for 1178
political advertising a rate in excess of the rate such person 1179
would charge if the campaign committee were a general rate 1180
advertiser whose advertising was directed to promoting its 1181
business within the same area as that encompassed by the 1182
particular office that the candidate of the campaign committee 1183
is seeking. The rate shall take into account the amount of space 1184
used, as well as the type of advertising copy submitted by or on 1185
behalf of the campaign committee. All discount privileges 1186
otherwise offered by a newspaper or periodical to general rate 1187
advertisers shall be available upon equal terms to all campaign 1188
committees. 1189

No person within this state, operating a radio or 1190
television station or network of stations in this state, shall 1191
charge a campaign committee for political broadcasts a rate that 1192
exceeds: 1193

(1) During the forty-five days preceding the date of a 1194
primary election and during the sixty days preceding the date of 1195
a general or special election in which the candidate of the 1196
campaign committee is seeking office, the lowest unit charge of 1197
the station for the same class and amount of time for the same 1198
period; 1199

(2) At any other time, the charges made for comparable use 1200
of that station by its other users. 1201

(I) Subject to divisions (K), (L), (M), and (N) of this 1202
section, no agency or department of this state or any political 1203
subdivision shall award any contract, other than one let by 1204
competitive bidding or a contract incidental to such contract or 1205
which is by force account, for the purchase of goods costing 1206
more than five hundred dollars or services costing more than 1207
five hundred dollars to any individual, partnership, 1208
association, including, without limitation, a professional 1209
association organized under Chapter 1785. of the Revised Code, 1210
estate, or trust if the individual has made or the individual's 1211
spouse has made, or any partner, shareholder, administrator, 1212
executor, or trustee or the spouse of any of them has made, as 1213
an individual, within the two previous calendar years, one or 1214
more contributions totaling in excess of one thousand dollars to 1215
the holder of the public office having ultimate responsibility 1216
for the award of the contract or to the public officer's 1217
campaign committee. 1218

(J) Subject to divisions (K), (L), (M), and (N) of this 1219
section, no agency or department of this state or any political 1220
subdivision shall award any contract, other than one let by 1221
competitive bidding or a contract incidental to such contract or 1222
which is by force account, for the purchase of goods costing 1223
more than five hundred dollars or services costing more than 1224
five hundred dollars to a corporation or business trust, except 1225
a professional association organized under Chapter 1785. of the 1226
Revised Code, if an owner of more than twenty per cent of the 1227
corporation or business trust or the spouse of that person has 1228
made, as an individual, within the two previous calendar years, 1229
taking into consideration only owners for all of that period, 1230

one or more contributions totaling in excess of one thousand 1231
dollars to the holder of a public office having ultimate 1232
responsibility for the award of the contract or to the public 1233
officer's campaign committee. 1234

(K) For purposes of divisions (I) and (J) of this section, 1235
if a public officer who is responsible for the award of a 1236
contract is appointed by the governor, whether or not the 1237
appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the senate, 1238
excluding members of boards, commissions, committees, 1239
authorities, councils, boards of trustees, task forces, and 1240
other such entities appointed by the governor, the office of the 1241
governor is considered to have ultimate responsibility for the 1242
award of the contract. 1243

(L) For purposes of divisions (I) and (J) of this section, 1244
if a public officer who is responsible for the award of a 1245
contract is appointed by the elected chief executive officer of 1246
a municipal corporation, or appointed by the elected chief 1247
executive officer of a county operating under an alternative 1248
form of county government or county charter, excluding members 1249
of boards, commissions, committees, authorities, councils, 1250
boards of trustees, task forces, and other such entities 1251
appointed by the chief executive officer, the office of the 1252
chief executive officer is considered to have ultimate 1253
responsibility for the award of the contract. 1254

(M) (1) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply 1255
to contracts awarded by the board of commissioners of the 1256
sinking fund, municipal legislative authorities, boards of 1257
education, boards of county commissioners, boards of township 1258
trustees, or other boards, commissions, committees, authorities, 1259
councils, boards of trustees, task forces, and other such 1260

entities created by law, by the supreme court or courts of 1261
appeals, by county courts consisting of more than one judge, 1262
courts of common pleas consisting of more than one judge, or 1263
municipal courts consisting of more than one judge, or by a 1264
division of any court if the division consists of more than one 1265
judge. This division shall apply to the specified entity only if 1266
the members of the entity act collectively in the award of a 1267
contract for goods or services. 1268

(2) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply to 1269
actions of the controlling board. 1270

(N) (1) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section apply to 1271
contributions made to the holder of a public office having 1272
ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, or to the 1273
public officer's campaign committee, during the time the person 1274
holds the office and during any time such person was a candidate 1275
for the office. Those divisions do not apply to contributions 1276
made to, or to the campaign committee of, a candidate for or 1277
holder of the office other than the holder of the office at the 1278
time of the award of the contract. 1279

(2) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply to 1280
contributions of a partner, shareholder, administrator, 1281
executor, trustee, or owner of more than twenty per cent of a 1282
corporation or business trust made before the person held any of 1283
those positions or after the person ceased to hold any of those 1284
positions in the partnership, association, estate, trust, 1285
corporation, or business trust whose eligibility to be awarded a 1286
contract is being determined, nor to contributions of the 1287
person's spouse made before the person held any of those 1288
positions, after the person ceased to hold any of those 1289
positions, before the two were married, after the granting of a 1290

decree of divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, or 1291
after the granting of an order in an action brought solely for 1292
legal separation. Those divisions do not apply to contributions 1293
of the spouse of an individual whose eligibility to be awarded a 1294
contract is being determined made before the two were married, 1295
after the granting of a decree of divorce, dissolution of 1296
marriage, or annulment, or after the granting of an order in an 1297
action brought solely for legal separation. 1298

(0) No beneficiary of a campaign fund or other person 1299
shall convert for personal use, and no person shall knowingly 1300
give to a beneficiary of a campaign fund or any other person, 1301
for the beneficiary's or any other person's personal use, 1302
anything of value from the beneficiary's campaign fund, 1303
including, without limitation, payments to a beneficiary for 1304
services the beneficiary personally performs, except as 1305
reimbursement for any of the following: 1306

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses 1307
incurred by the beneficiary; 1308

(2) Legitimate and verifiable ordinary and necessary prior 1309
expenses incurred by the beneficiary in connection with duties 1310
as the holder of a public office, including, without limitation, 1311
expenses incurred through participation in nonpartisan or 1312
bipartisan events if the participation of the holder of a public 1313
office would normally be expected; 1314

(3) Legitimate and verifiable ordinary and necessary prior 1315
expenses incurred by the beneficiary while doing any of the 1316
following: 1317

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 1318
a candidate other than the beneficiary, political party, or 1319

ballot issue; 1320

(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action 1321
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1322
fund, campaign committee, or other candidate; 1323

(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, 1324
political action committee, political contributing entity, 1325
legislative campaign fund, or campaign committee; 1326

(d) Attending a political party convention or other 1327
political meeting. 1328

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 1329
whenever a beneficiary has either made payment or is obligated 1330
to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other credit 1331
procedure or by the use of goods or services received on 1332
account. 1333

(P) No beneficiary of a campaign fund shall knowingly 1334
accept, and no person shall knowingly give to the beneficiary of 1335
a campaign fund, reimbursement for an expense under division (O) 1336
of this section to the extent that the expense previously was 1337
reimbursed or paid from another source of funds. If an expense 1338
is reimbursed under division (O) of this section and is later 1339
paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from another source of 1340
funds, the beneficiary shall repay the reimbursement received 1341
under division (O) of this section to the extent of the payment 1342
made or reimbursement received from the other source. 1343

(Q) No candidate or public official or employee shall 1344
accept for personal or business use anything of value from a 1345
political party, political action committee, political 1346
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or campaign 1347
committee other than the candidate's or public official's or 1348

employee's own campaign committee, and no person shall knowingly 1349
give to a candidate or public official or employee anything of 1350
value from a political party, political action committee, 1351
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1352
such a campaign committee, except for the following: 1353

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable ordinary 1354
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 1355
incurred by the candidate or public official or employee while 1356
engaged in any legitimate activity of the political party, 1357
political action committee, political contributing entity, 1358
legislative campaign fund, or such campaign committee. Without 1359
limitation, reimbursable expenses under this division include 1360
those incurred while doing any of the following: 1361

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 1362
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 1363

(b) Raising funds for a political party, legislative 1364
campaign fund, campaign committee, or another candidate; 1365

(c) Attending a political party convention or other 1366
political meeting. 1367

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for 1368
actual and valuable personal services rendered under a written 1369
contract to the political party, political action committee, 1370
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1371
such campaign committee for any legitimate activity of the 1372
political party, political action committee, political 1373
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or such campaign 1374
committee. 1375

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 1376
and it is a violation of this division for a candidate or public 1377

official or employee to accept, or for any person to knowingly 1378
give to a candidate or public official or employee from a 1379
political party, political action committee, political 1380
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or campaign 1381
committee other than the candidate's or public official's or 1382
employee's own campaign committee, anything of value for 1383
activities primarily related to the candidate's or public 1384
official's or employee's own campaign for election, except for 1385
contributions to the candidate's or public official's or 1386
employee's campaign committee. 1387

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 1388
whenever a candidate or public official or employee has either 1389
made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a 1390
credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or 1391
services on account. 1392

(R) (1) Division (O) or (P) of this section does not 1393
prohibit a campaign committee from making direct advance or post 1394
payment from contributions to vendors for goods and services for 1395
which reimbursement is permitted under division (O) of this 1396
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay its 1397
candidate or other beneficiary for services personally performed 1398
by the candidate or other beneficiary. 1399

(2) If any expense that may be reimbursed under division 1400
(O), (P), or (Q) of this section is part of other expenses that 1401
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 1402
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 1403
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 1404
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 1405
surrounding circumstances. 1406

(3) For purposes of divisions (O), (P), and (Q) of this 1407

section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that 1408
allowed by the internal revenue service at the time the travel 1409
occurs may be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel 1410
expenses allowable. 1411

(4) For purposes of divisions (O), (P), and (Q) of this 1412
section, the reasonable cost of child care rendered in this 1413
state is considered an ordinary and necessary expense incurred 1414
by a beneficiary while engaging in the activities and duties 1415
described in those divisions, so long as all of the following 1416
apply: 1417

(a) The cost is incurred only as a direct result of the 1418
beneficiary engaging in those activities and duties and would 1419
not otherwise be incurred. 1420

(b) The beneficiary is a primary caregiver of the child. 1421

(c) The child is twelve years of age or younger. 1422

(S) (1) As used in division (S) of this section: 1423

(a) "State elective office" has the same meaning as in 1424
section 3517.092 of the Revised Code. 1425

(b) "Federal office" means a federal office as defined in 1426
the Federal Election Campaign Act. 1427

(c) "Federal campaign committee" means a principal 1428
campaign committee or authorized committee as defined in the 1429
Federal Election Campaign Act. 1430

(2) No person who is a candidate for state elective office 1431
and who previously sought nomination or election to a federal 1432
office shall transfer any funds or assets from that person's 1433
federal campaign committee for nomination or election to the 1434
federal office to that person's campaign committee as a 1435

candidate for state elective office. 1436

(3) No campaign committee of a person who is a candidate 1437
for state elective office and who previously sought nomination 1438
or election to a federal office shall accept any funds or assets 1439
from that person's federal campaign committee for that person's 1440
nomination or election to the federal office. 1441

(T) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (6) (c) 1442
of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, a state or county 1443
political party shall not disburse moneys from any account other 1444
than a state candidate fund to make contributions to any of the 1445
following: 1446

(a) A state candidate fund; 1447

(b) A legislative campaign fund; 1448

(c) A campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 1449
governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of 1450
state, treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state 1451
board of education, or member of the general assembly. 1452

(2) No state candidate fund, legislative campaign fund, or 1453
campaign committee of a candidate for any office described in 1454
division (T) (1) (c) of this section shall knowingly accept a 1455
contribution in violation of division (T) (1) of this section. 1456

(U) No person shall fail to file a statement required 1457
under section 3517.12 of the Revised Code. 1458

(V) No campaign committee shall fail to file a statement 1459
required under division (K) (3) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1460
Code. 1461

(W) (1) No foreign national shall, directly or indirectly 1462
through any other person or entity, ~~make~~ do any of the 1463

following: 1464

(a) Make a contribution, expenditure, or independent 1465
expenditure or promise, either expressly or implicitly, to make 1466
a contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure ~~in~~ 1467
~~support of or opposition to a candidate for any elective office~~ 1468
~~in this state, including an office of a political party;~~ 1469

(b) Solicit another person to make a contribution, 1470
expenditure, or independent expenditure; 1471

(c) Make a loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of 1472
indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds 1473
to another person with a designation, instruction, or 1474
encumbrance that the foreign national knows will result in any 1475
part of the loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, 1476
donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds being used to 1477
make a contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure. As 1478
used in this division, "designation, instruction, or 1479
encumbrance" includes any designation, instruction, or 1480
encumbrance that is direct or indirect, express or implied, oral 1481
or written, or involving an intermediary or conduit. 1482

(2) No candidate, campaign committee, political action 1483
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1484
fund, state candidate fund, political party, ~~or~~ separate 1485
segregated fund, continuing association, corporation, or labor 1486
organization shall do either of the following: 1487

(a) Knowingly transfer funds, or accept a transfer of 1488
funds, directly or indirectly into an account from which the 1489
person makes contributions or expenditures from an account that 1490
is controlled by the person or by the person's affiliate and 1491
that, at any time, has contained funds received directly or 1492

indirectly from a foreign national. For purposes of this 1493
division, a person is affiliated with another person if they are 1494
both established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or if 1495
they are, the same corporation, organization, labor 1496
organization, or other person, including any parent, subsidiary, 1497
division, or department of that corporation, organization, labor 1498
organization, or other person. 1499

(b) Otherwise knowingly solicit or accept a contribution, 1500
expenditure, or independent expenditure, directly or indirectly 1501
through another person or entity, from a foreign national. The 1502
~~secretary of state may direct any candidate, committee, entity,~~ 1503
~~fund, or party that accepts a contribution, expenditure, or~~ 1504
~~independent expenditure in violation of this division to return~~ 1505
~~the contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure or, if~~ 1506
~~it is not possible to return the contribution, expenditure, or~~ 1507
~~independent expenditure, then to return instead the value of it,~~ 1508
~~to the contributor.~~ 1509

(3) No person shall knowingly aid or facilitate a 1510
violation of division (W) (1) or (2) of this section. 1511

(4) As used in division (W) of this section, "foreign 1512
~~national" has the same meaning as in section 441e(b) of the~~ 1513
~~Federal Election Campaign Act~~ means any of the following, as 1514
applicable: 1515

(a) In the case of an individual, an individual who is not 1516
a United States citizen or national; 1517

(b) A government of a foreign country or of a political 1518
subdivision of a foreign country; 1519

(c) A foreign political party; 1520

(d) A person, other than an individual, that is organized 1521

under the laws of, or has its principal place of business in, a 1522
foreign country. 1523

(X) (1) No state or county political party shall transfer 1524
any moneys from its restricted fund to any account of the 1525
political party into which contributions may be made or from 1526
which contributions or expenditures may be made. 1527

(2) (a) No state or county political party shall deposit a 1528
contribution or contributions that it receives into its 1529
restricted fund. 1530

(b) No state or county political party shall make a 1531
contribution or an expenditure from its restricted fund. 1532

(3) (a) No corporation or labor organization shall make a 1533
gift or gifts from the corporation's or labor organization's 1534
money or property aggregating more than ten thousand dollars to 1535
any one state or county political party for the party's 1536
restricted fund in a calendar year. 1537

(b) No state or county political party shall accept a gift 1538
or gifts for the party's restricted fund aggregating more than 1539
ten thousand dollars from any one corporation or labor 1540
organization in a calendar year. 1541

(4) No state or county political party shall transfer any 1542
moneys in the party's restricted fund to any other state or 1543
county political party. 1544

(5) No state or county political party shall knowingly 1545
fail to file a statement required under section 3517.1012 of the 1546
Revised Code. 1547

(Y) The administrator of workers' compensation and the 1548
employees of the bureau of workers' compensation shall not 1549

conduct any business with or award any contract, other than one 1550
awarded by competitive bidding, for the purchase of goods 1551
costing more than five hundred dollars or services costing more 1552
than five hundred dollars to any individual, partnership, 1553
association, including, without limitation, a professional 1554
association organized under Chapter 1785. of the Revised Code, 1555
estate, or trust, if the individual has made, or the 1556
individual's spouse has made, or any partner, shareholder, 1557
administrator, executor, or trustee, or the spouses of any of 1558
those individuals has made, as an individual, within the two 1559
previous calendar years, one or more contributions totaling in 1560
excess of one thousand dollars to the campaign committee of the 1561
governor or lieutenant governor or to the campaign committee of 1562
any candidate for the office of governor or lieutenant governor. 1563

(Z) The administrator of workers' compensation and the 1564
employees of the bureau of workers' compensation shall not 1565
conduct business with or award any contract, other than one 1566
awarded by competitive bidding, for the purchase of goods 1567
costing more than five hundred dollars or services costing more 1568
than five hundred dollars to a corporation or business trust, 1569
except a professional association organized under Chapter 1785. 1570
of the Revised Code, if an owner of more than twenty per cent of 1571
the corporation or business trust, or the spouse of the owner, 1572
has made, as an individual, within the two previous calendar 1573
years, taking into consideration only owners for all of such 1574
period, one or more contributions totaling in excess of one 1575
thousand dollars to the campaign committee of the governor or 1576
lieutenant governor or to the campaign committee of any 1577
candidate for the office of governor or lieutenant governor. 1578

Sec. 3517.155. (A) (1) Except as otherwise provided in 1579
division (B) of this section, the Ohio elections commission 1580

shall hold its first hearing on a complaint filed with it, other 1581
than a complaint that receives an expedited hearing under 1582
section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, not later than ninety 1583
business days after the complaint is filed unless the commission 1584
has good cause to hold the hearing after that time, in which 1585
case it shall hold the hearing not later than one hundred eighty 1586
business days after the complaint is filed. At the hearing, the 1587
commission shall determine whether or not the failure to act or 1588
the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred and shall do 1589
only one of the following, except as otherwise provided in 1590
~~division (B) of this section or in division (B) of section~~ 1591
3517.151 of the Revised Code: 1592

(a) Enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to 1593
impose a fine or not to refer the matter to the appropriate 1594
prosecutor; 1595

(b) Impose a fine under section 3517.993 of the Revised 1596
Code; 1597

(c) Refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor~~+~~. 1598

(2) As used in division (A) of this section, "appropriate 1599
prosecutor" means ~~a prosecutor as defined in section 2935.01 of~~ 1600
~~the Revised Code and either of the following:~~ 1601

(a) In the case of a failure to comply with or a violation 1602
of law involving a campaign committee or the committee's 1603
candidate, a political party, a legislative campaign fund, a 1604
political action committee, or a political contributing entity, 1605
that is required to file a statement of contributions and 1606
expenditures with the secretary of state under division (A) of 1607
section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, ~~the prosecutor of Franklin~~ 1608
county attorney general, except that if the attorney general is 1609

a victim or witness or otherwise involved in the matter, 1610
"appropriate prosecutor" means a county prosecutor whom the 1611
commission deems appropriate to prosecute the matter; 1612

(b) In the case of a failure to comply with or a violation 1613
of law involving any other campaign committee or committee's 1614
candidate, or any other political party, political action 1615
committee, or political contributing entity, either of the 1616
following as determined by the commission: 1617

(i) The prosecutor of Franklin county attorney general, 1618
except that if the attorney general is a victim or witness or 1619
otherwise involved in the matter, the commission shall refer the 1620
matter to the prosecutor described in division (A) (2) (b) (ii) of 1621
this section; 1622

(ii) The prosecutor of the county in which the candidacy 1623
or ballot question or issue is submitted to the electors or, if 1624
it is submitted in more than one county, the most populous of 1625
those counties, except that if that prosecutor is a victim or 1626
witness or otherwise involved in the matter, the commission 1627
shall refer the matter to the attorney general. 1628

(3) When the commission refers a matter to the attorney 1629
general under this section, or when a matter is transferred to 1630
the attorney general under division (D) (3) (b) of this section, 1631
the attorney general may prosecute the matter with all the 1632
rights, privileges, and powers conferred by law on prosecuting 1633
attorneys, including the power to appear before grand juries and 1634
to interrogate witnesses before such grand juries. These powers 1635
of the attorney general are in addition to any other applicable 1636
powers of the attorney general. 1637

(B) If the commission decides that the evidence is 1638

insufficient for it to determine whether or not the failure to 1639
act or the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred, the 1640
commission, by the affirmative vote of five members, may request 1641
that an investigatory attorney investigate the complaint. Upon 1642
that request, an investigatory attorney shall make an 1643
investigation in order to produce sufficient evidence for the 1644
commission to decide the matter. If the commission requests an 1645
investigation under this division, for good cause shown by the 1646
investigatory attorney, the commission may extend by sixty days 1647
the deadline for holding its first hearing on the complaint as 1648
required in division (A) of this section. 1649

(C) The commission shall take one of the actions required 1650
under division (A) of this section not later than thirty days 1651
after the close of all the evidence presented. 1652

(D) (1) The commission shall make any finding of a failure 1653
to comply with or a violation of law in regard to a complaint 1654
that alleges a violation of division (A) or (B) of section 1655
3517.21, or division (A) or (B) of section 3517.22 of the 1656
Revised Code by clear and convincing evidence. The commission 1657
shall make any finding of a failure to comply with or a 1658
violation of law in regard to any other complaint by a 1659
preponderance of the evidence. 1660

(2) If the commission finds a violation of division (B) of 1661
section 3517.21 or division (B) of section 3517.22 of the 1662
Revised Code, it shall refer the matter to the appropriate 1663
prosecutor under division (A) (1) (c) of this section and shall 1664
not impose a fine under division (A) (1) (b) of this section or 1665
section 3517.993 of the Revised Code. 1666

(3) (a) If the commission finds a violation of division (W) 1667
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, it shall do one of the 1668

following:

(i) Impose a fine under section 3517.993 of the Revised Code in an amount equal to three times the amount involved in the violation or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is greater, with none of the fine suspended and, in the case of a violation of division (W) (2) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, order the violator to return an amount equal to any amount accepted in violation of that division to the foreign national from whom it was accepted;

(ii) Refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor.

(b) (i) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) (3) (b) (ii) of this section, if the commission finds a violation of division (W) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code and refers the matter to a county prosecutor under division (A) (2) (b) (ii) of this section, the attorney general may transfer the matter to the attorney general for prosecution upon the request of the prosecutor to whom the commission refers the matter or upon the attorney general's own initiative.

(ii) Division (D) (3) (b) (i) of this section does not apply to any matter in which the attorney general is a victim or witness or is otherwise involved.

(E) In an action before the commission or a panel of the commission, if the allegations of the complainant are not proved, and the commission takes the action described in division (A) (1) (a) of this section or a panel of the commission takes the action described in division (C) (1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the commission or a panel of the commission may find that the complaint is frivolous, and, if the commission or panel so finds, the commission shall order the

complainant to pay reasonable attorney's fees and to pay the 1698
costs of the commission or panel as determined by a majority of 1699
the members of the commission. The costs paid to the commission 1700
or panel under this division shall be deposited into the Ohio 1701
elections commission fund. 1702

Sec. 3517.992. This section establishes penalties only 1703
with respect to acts or failures to act that occur on and after 1704
August 24, 1995. 1705

(A) (1) A candidate whose campaign committee violates 1706
division (A), (B), (C), (D), or (V) of section 3517.13 of the 1707
Revised Code, or a treasurer of a campaign committee who 1708
violates any of those divisions, shall be fined not more than 1709
one hundred dollars for each day of violation. 1710

(2) Whoever violates division (E) or (X) (5) of section 1711
3517.13 or division (E) (1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 1712
Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each 1713
day of violation. 1714

(B) An entity that violates division (G) (1) of section 1715
3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one 1716
hundred dollars for each day of violation. 1717

(C) Whoever violates division (G) (2) of section 3517.101, 1718
division (G) of section 3517.13, or division (E) (2) or (3) of 1719
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more 1720
than ten thousand dollars or, if the offender is a person who 1721
was nominated or elected to public office, shall forfeit the 1722
nomination or the office to which the offender was elected, or 1723
both. 1724

(D) Whoever violates division (F) of section 3517.13 of 1725
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than three times the 1726

amount contributed. 1727

(E) Whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.13 of 1728
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred 1729
dollars. 1730

(F) Whoever violates division (O), (P), or (Q) of section 1731
3517.13 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 1732
first degree. 1733

(G) A state or county committee of a political party that 1734
violates division (B)(1) of section 3517.18 of the Revised Code 1735
as that section existed before its repeal by H.B. 166 of the 1736
133rd general assembly shall be fined not more than twice the 1737
amount of the improper expenditure. 1738

(H) An entity that violates division (H) of section 1739
3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than twice 1740
the amount of the improper expenditure or use. 1741

(I) (1) Any individual who violates division (B)(1) of 1742
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code and knows that the 1743
contribution the individual makes violates that division shall 1744
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed 1745
in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1746

(2) Any political action committee that violates division 1747
(B)(2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 1748
amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of 1749
the amount permitted by that division. 1750

(3) Any campaign committee that violates division (B)(3) 1751
or (5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 1752
amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of 1753
the amount permitted by that division. 1754

(4) (a) Any legislative campaign fund that violates 1755
division (B) (6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 1756
fined an amount equal to three times the amount transferred or 1757
contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division, 1758
as applicable. 1759

(b) Any state political party, county political party, or 1760
state candidate fund of a state political party or county 1761
political party that violates division (B) (6) of section 1762
3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 1763
three times the amount transferred or contributed in excess of 1764
the amount permitted by that division, as applicable. 1765

(c) Any political contributing entity that violates 1766
division (B) (7) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 1767
fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed in 1768
excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1769

(5) Any political party that violates division (B) (4) of 1770
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 1771
equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the 1772
amount permitted by that division. 1773

(6) Notwithstanding divisions (I) (1), (2), (3), (4), and 1774
(5) of this section, no violation of division (B) of section 1775
3517.102 of the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state 1776
shall not refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the 1777
amount transferred or contributed in excess of the amount 1778
permitted by that division meets either of the following 1779
conditions: 1780

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days 1781
after it is accepted. 1782

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth 1783

business day after notification to the recipient of the excess 1784
transfer or contribution by the board of elections or the 1785
secretary of state that a transfer or contribution in excess of 1786
the permitted amount has been received. 1787

(J) (1) Any campaign committee that violates division (C) 1788
(1), (2), (3), or (6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 1789
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1790
accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1791

(2) (a) Any county political party that violates division 1792
(C) (4) (a) (ii) or (iii) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 1793
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1794
accepted. 1795

(b) Any county political party that violates division (C) 1796
(4) (a) (i) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 1797
an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 1798
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 1799
division. 1800

(c) Any state political party that violates division (C) 1801
(4) (b) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 1802
amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 1803
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 1804
division. 1805

(3) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 1806
(C) (5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 1807
amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess of the 1808
amount permitted by that division. 1809

(4) Any political action committee or political 1810
contributing entity that violates division (C) (7) of section 1811
3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 1812

three times the amount accepted in excess of the amount 1813
permitted by that division. 1814

(5) Notwithstanding divisions (J) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of 1815
this section, no violation of division (C) of section 3517.102 1816
of the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state shall not 1817
refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the amount 1818
transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted to 1819
be accepted by that division meets either of the following 1820
conditions: 1821

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days 1822
after its acceptance. 1823

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth 1824
business day after notification to the recipient of the excess 1825
transfer or contribution by the board of elections or the 1826
secretary of state that a transfer or contribution in excess of 1827
the permitted amount has been received. 1828

(K) (1) Any legislative campaign fund that violates 1829
division (F) (1) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 1830
fined twenty-five dollars for each day of violation. 1831

(2) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 1832
(F) (2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall give to the 1833
treasurer of state for deposit into the state treasury to the 1834
credit of the Ohio elections commission fund all excess 1835
contributions not disposed of as required by division (E) of 1836
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. 1837

(L) Whoever violates section 3517.105 of the Revised Code 1838
shall be fined one thousand dollars. 1839

(M) (1) Whoever solicits a contribution in violation of 1840
section 3517.092 or violates division (B) of section 3517.09 of 1841

the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 1842

(2) Whoever knowingly accepts a contribution in violation 1843
of division (B) or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code 1844
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1845
accepted in violation of either of those divisions and shall 1846
return to the contributor any amount so accepted. Whoever 1847
unknowingly accepts a contribution in violation of division (B) 1848
or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code shall return to 1849
the contributor any amount so accepted. 1850

(N) Whoever violates division (S) of section 3517.13 of 1851
the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times 1852
the amount of funds transferred or three times the value of the 1853
assets transferred in violation of that division. 1854

(O) Any campaign committee that accepts a contribution or 1855
contributions in violation of section 3517.108 of the Revised 1856
Code, uses a contribution in violation of that section, or fails 1857
to dispose of excess contributions in violation of that section 1858
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1859
accepted, used, or kept in violation of that section. 1860

(P) Any political party, state candidate fund, legislative 1861
candidate fund, or campaign committee that violates division (T) 1862
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 1863
equal to three times the amount contributed or accepted in 1864
violation of that section. 1865

(Q) A treasurer of a committee or another person who 1866
violates division (U) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code 1867
shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars. 1868

(R) Whoever violates division (I) or (J) of section 1869
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one 1870

thousand dollars. Whenever a person is found guilty of violating 1871
division (I) or (J) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, the 1872
contract awarded in violation of either of those divisions shall 1873
be rescinded if its terms have not yet been performed. 1874

(S) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 1875
treasurer of a campaign committee who violates section 3517.081 1876
of the Revised Code, and a candidate whose campaign committee 1877
violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or another 1878
person who violates division (C) of section 3517.10 of the 1879
Revised Code, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 1880

(T) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 1881
treasurer of a committee who violates division (B) of section 1882
3517.09 of the Revised Code, or a candidate whose campaign 1883
committee violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or 1884
another person who violates division (C) of section 3517.09 of 1885
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand 1886
dollars. 1887

(U) Whoever violates section 3517.20 of the Revised Code 1888
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 1889

(V) Whoever violates section 3517.21 or 3517.22 of the 1890
Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or 1891
fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. 1892

(W) A campaign committee that is required to file a 1893
declaration of no limits under division (D) (2) of section 1894
3517.103 of the Revised Code that, before filing that 1895
declaration, accepts a contribution or contributions that exceed 1896
the limitations prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised 1897
Code, shall return that contribution or those contributions to 1898
the contributor. 1899

(X) Any campaign committee that fails to file the 1900
declaration of filing-day finances required by division (F) of 1901
section 3517.109 of the Revised Code shall be fined twenty-five 1902
dollars for each day of violation. 1903

(Y) (1) Any campaign committee that fails to dispose of 1904
excess funds or excess aggregate contributions under division 1905
(B) of section 3517.109 of the Revised Code in the manner 1906
required by division (C) of that section shall give to the 1907
treasurer of state for deposit into the Ohio elections 1908
commission fund created under division (I) of section 3517.152 1909
of the Revised Code all funds not disposed of pursuant to that 1910
division. 1911

(2) Any treasurer of a transition fund that fails to 1912
dispose of assets remaining in the transition fund as required 1913
under division (H) (1) or (2) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 1914
Code shall give to the treasurer of state for deposit into the 1915
Ohio elections commission fund all assets not disposed of 1916
pursuant to that division. 1917

(Z) Any individual, campaign committee, political action 1918
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1919
fund, political party, treasurer of a transition fund, or other 1920
entity that violates any provision of sections 3517.09 to 1921
3517.12 of the Revised Code for which no penalty is provided for 1922
under any other division of this section shall be fined not more 1923
than one thousand dollars. 1924

(AA) (1) Whoever knowingly violates division (W) (1) of 1925
section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 1926
equal to three times the amount contributed, expended, or 1927
promised in violation of that division or ten thousand dollars, 1928
whichever amount is greater. 1929

(2) Whoever knowingly violates division (W) (2) of section 1930
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 1931
three times the amount solicited or accepted in violation of 1932
that division or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is 1933
greater, and shall be required to return an amount equal to any 1934
amount accepted in violation of that division to the foreign 1935
national from whom it was accepted. 1936

(3) Whoever knowingly violates division (W) (3) of section 1937
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 1938
three times the amount involved in the violation or ten thousand 1939
dollars, whichever amount is greater. 1940

(BB) Whoever knowingly violates division (C) or (D) of 1941
section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more 1942
than ten thousand dollars plus not more than one thousand 1943
dollars for each day of violation. 1944

(CC) (1) Subject to division (CC) (2) of this section, 1945
whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.1011 of the 1946
Revised Code shall be fined an amount up to three times the 1947
amount disbursed for the direct costs of airing the 1948
communication made in violation of that division. 1949

(2) Whoever has been ordered by the Ohio elections 1950
commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction to cease 1951
making communications in violation of division (H) of section 1952
3517.1011 of the Revised Code who again violates that division 1953
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1954
disbursed for the direct costs of airing the communication made 1955
in violation of that division. 1956

(DD) (1) Any corporation or labor organization that 1957
violates division (X) (3) (a) of section 3517.13 of the Revised 1958

Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1959
given in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1960

(2) Any state or county political party that violates 1961
division (X) (3) (b) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall 1962
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in 1963
excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1964

(EE) (1) Any campaign committee or person who violates 1965
division (C) (1) (b) or (c) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 1966
Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 1967
donated in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 1968

(2) Any officeholder or treasurer of a transition fund who 1969
violates division (C) (3) (a) or (b) of section 3517.1014 of the 1970
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 1971
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 1972
division. 1973

Section 2. That existing sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 1974
3517.12, 3517.13, 3517.155, and 3517.992 of the Revised Code are 1975
hereby repealed. 1976

Section 3. (A) Notwithstanding any provision of the 1977
Revised Code to the contrary, a major political party shall 1978
certify to the Secretary of State in writing the names of its 1979
candidates for president and vice-president nominated by its 1980
national convention pursuant to section 3505.10 of the Revised 1981
Code not later than the seventy-fourth day before the 2024 1982
general election. The political party may transmit the 1983
certification to the Secretary of State by any reasonably 1984
reliable method that, under the circumstances, will provide for 1985
the Secretary of State to receive it by the deadline, including 1986
by any of the following methods: 1987

(1) Hand delivery;	1988
(2) Certified, express, or ordinary mail delivery by the United States Postal Service;	1989 1990
(3) Commercial carrier service;	1991
(4) Facsimile transmission;	1992
(5) Electronic mail.	1993
(B) For purposes of this section, "major political party" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the Revised Code.	1994 1995