

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

CHAPTER 539

An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-1014 of the Code of Virginia, relating to campaign writings and advertisements; identification requirements.

[H 1152]

Approved April 6, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 24.2-1014 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-1014. Identifying persons responsible for campaign advertisements; penalties.

A. As used in this section "~~writing~~" "*advertisement*" includes any printed or otherwise reproduced ~~statement or advertisement material that contains a statement or statements~~ made for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election for public office, but shall not include: (i) editorial comment or news coverage ~~which~~ *that* is sponsored and financed by the news medium publishing or broadcasting it ~~nor writings authorized by the candidate or~~; (ii) novelties, *authorized by the candidate*, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, and buttons to be attached to wearing apparel; *or* (iii) *signs and billboards larger than six square feet in area and authorized by the candidate that show only the candidate's name and one or more of the following facts: the candidate's political party, the elected office held, the elected office sought, or the date of the election.*

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause any ~~writing~~ *advertisement* other than a television or radio broadcast to appear concerning any clearly identified candidate unless such ~~writing~~ *advertisement* plainly identifies the person *or entity* responsible for it. The ~~writing~~ *advertisement* shall carry the statement "authorized by" and contain the following information to complete the statement:

1. The name of the candidate if the ~~writing~~ *advertisement* is authorized by the candidate or his campaign committee;

2. The name of the political party committee if the ~~writing~~ *advertisement* is authorized by that committee; or

3. If authorized by any person other than the candidate, his campaign committee, or a political party committee, either:

a. In the case of a committee that has filed a statement of organization under § 24.2-908, the full name of the committee and a registration number provided by the State Board, or

b. In any other case, the full name and residence address of the individual responsible for the ~~writing~~ *advertisement*.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person to use a false or fictitious name or address on any such ~~writing~~ *advertisement* described in subsection B.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause any radio or television *or other electronically transmitted* statement to appear concerning any clearly identified candidate unless the advertisement or statement contains information ~~which~~ *that* plainly identifies the candidate, committee, ~~or~~ individual, *or entity* responsible for it.

E. Any person violating any provision of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed fifty dollars; and, in the case of a willful violation, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The procedure to enforce the civil penalty provided in this section shall be as stated in § 24.2-929. The violation of this section shall not void any election.