

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2003 SESSION

## CHAPTER 242

*An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-914.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electronic preparation and transmittal of campaign finance disclosure reports; mandatory electronic filings.*

[H 1693]

Approved March 16, 2003

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 24.2-914.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 24.2-914.1. Standards and requirements for electronic preparation and transmittal of campaign finance disclosure reports; database.

A. The State Board of Elections shall review or cause to be developed and shall approve standards for the preparation, production, and transmittal by computer or electronic means of the reports of contributions and expenditures required by this article (§ 24.2-914 et seq.). The State Board may prescribe the method of execution and certification of electronically filed statements and the procedures for receiving statements in the office of the State Board or by the local electoral boards.

B. 1. The State Board shall accept any report of contributions and expenditures filed by candidates for the General Assembly, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General by computer or electronic means in accordance with the standards approved by the State Board and using software meeting standards approved by it.

2. A local electoral board may accept reports of contributions and expenditures filed by computer or electronic means from any candidate or political committee that is required to file reports with that board. Such reports shall be filed in accordance with, and using software that meets, standards approved by the State Board. The electoral board shall promptly make the information that it accepts in this manner available to the public through the global information system known as the Internet.

3. The State Board may provide software to filers without charge or at a reasonable cost.

C. On and after January 1, 2001, the State Board shall enter or cause to be entered into a campaign finance database, available to the public through the global information system known as the Internet, the information from required reports of contributions and expenditures filed by computer, electronic, or other means by candidates for the General Assembly, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

D. Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General shall file by computer or electronic means in accordance with the standards approved by the State Board the reports required by this article. Candidates for the General Assembly may file the reports required by this article with the State Board by computer or electronic means in accordance with the standards approved by the State Board. This information shall be made available to the public promptly by the State Board through the global information system known as the Internet.

E. Other committee reports required by this chapter to be filed with the State Board or a local electoral board, or both, may be filed electronically on terms agreed to by the committee and Board.

*F. On and after January 1, 2004, a political committee that is required by this chapter to file reports with the State Board, and that accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$10,000 in any calendar year, or that accepted contributions or made expenditures in excess of \$10,000 in the previous calendar year, shall file its reports with the State Board by computer or electronic means in accordance with the standards approved by the State Board until such time as the political committee files a final report. However, a county, city or local district political party committee shall not be required to file by computer or electronic means if it files its reports with the electoral board of that county or city. Any political committee that has been filing electronically, but does not anticipate accepting contributions or making expenditures in excess of \$10,000 in the upcoming calendar year, may sign a waiver, on a form prescribed by the State Board, to exempt the committee from the electronic filing requirement for the calendar year. Such waiver form shall be submitted and received no later than the date the first report is due covering activity for that calendar year.*

G. The State Board shall have authority to extend any deadline applicable to reports required to be filed by computer or electronic means in the event of a failure of the computer or electronic filing system that prevents timely filing. The extension shall not exceed a period of up to five days after restoration of the filing system to operating order.