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HOUSE BILL NO. 2304

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled January 8, 2003

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-910.1, relating to political committees advocating passage or defeat of referenda; disclosure.*

Patrons—Devolites, Pollard and Rapp

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-910.1 as follows:**

*§ 24.2-910.1. Political committees advocating passage or defeat of referenda; disclosure.*

*A. The Commonwealth has the obligation to promote an informed and knowledgeable electorate in referenda elections. The electorate will be better able to judge the implications of its vote in referenda if it has knowledge of the political committees that receive substantial contributions or make substantial expenditures to advocate the passage or defeat of a referendum.*

*B. The provisions of this section shall be applicable to any political committee (i) that receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$30,000 in a 12-month period to advocate the passage or defeat of a statewide referendum, (ii) that receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$20,000 in a 12-month period to advocate the passage or defeat of a referendum being held in 2 or more counties and cities; and (iii) that receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$10,000 in a 12-month period to advocate the passage or defeat of a referendum held in a single county or city.*

*C. A political committee that is subject to the provisions of this section shall (i) file a statement of organization pursuant to § 24.2-908 within 10 days after its organization or, if later, within 10 days after the date on which it has information which causes the committee to anticipate it will receive contributions or make expenditures in excess of the pertinent amount stated in subsection B and (ii) annually thereafter by January 15 until a final report is filed. The statement of organization shall include the information required in subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 of subsection A of § 24.2-908.*

*D. A political committee that is subject to the provisions of this section shall file the disclosure reports required by § 24.2-914. However, the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2 of subsection B § 24.2-914 shall be modified as follows: subdivision 1 shall be construed to require the total number of contributors, each of whom has contributed an aggregate of \$1,000 or less in a statewide referendum campaign, or \$600 or less in a campaign on a referendum being held in 2 or more counties and cities, or \$300 or less in a campaign on a referendum being held in a single county or city; and subdivision 2 shall be construed to apply to each contributor who has contributed an aggregate of more than the applicable amount stated in this subsection.*

*E. A political committee that is subject to the provisions of this section shall file the disclosure reports required by § 24.2-914 in accordance with the schedule set out in § 24.2-916 if it advocates the passage or defeat of a referendum held on a November general election date; or file its disclosure reports in accordance with the schedule set out in § 24.2-917 if it advocates the passage or defeat of a referendum held on a May general election date; or (v) file its disclosure reports in accordance with the schedule set out in § 24.2-918 if it advocates the passage or defeat of a referendum held on a date other than a November or May general election date.*

*F. The provisions of Chapter 9.2 (§ 24.2-941 et seq.) of this title shall not be applicable to advertisements sponsored by political committees that are subject to the provisions of this section.*

INTRODUCED

HB2304