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HOUSE BILL NO. 297

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 4, 2006

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-919 of the Code of Virginia, relating to campaign finance; special reports of large pre-election contributions.

Patron—Jones, S.C.

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 24.2-919 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-919. Special report required of certain large pre-election contributions.

A. Except as provided in subsection B, any single contribution of more than ~~\$1,000~~ \$5,000 for a statewide office or more than ~~\$500~~ \$1,000 for any other office, knowingly received or reported by the candidate or his treasurer on behalf of his candidacy (i) between the thirteenth day preceding a June primary and the primary date, (ii) between the thirteenth day preceding a November election and the election date, or (iii) between the eleventh day preceding any other election in which the individual is a candidate and the election day, shall be reported in writing as provided in § 24.2-914 or electronically pursuant to § 24.2-914.1, and the report *shall be* received by the State Board or local electoral board, as appropriate, by the end of the next business 5:00 p.m. on the following day; however, any such contribution received within the ~~twenty-four~~ 24 hours prior to the election day shall be reported and a report thereof received on the day prior to the election. Statewide and General Assembly candidates shall file all reports required by this section with the State Board and with the electoral board of the locality where the candidate resides. Any candidate for a constitutional or local office shall file such reports with the electoral board of the locality where the candidate resides. Any contribution reported pursuant to this section shall also be reported on the first report required by this article after any election.

B. The reports required by subsection A of this section shall also be required of any candidate for nomination by a political party to serve as the party's nominee in a general or special election if (i) the party nominates by convention or any method other than a primary and (ii) there are at least two candidates for nomination pursuant to the rules and procedures of the party. In such case, candidates for nomination shall be required to file the reports required by subsection A for the thirteen-day or eleven-day period, as specified by subsection A, immediately preceding:

1. The caucus, mass meeting, convention, or other nominating event at which the party's nomination shall be finally determined pursuant to the rules and procedures of the party; and

2. Any caucus, mass meeting, convention, or other nominating event, other than that at which the party's nomination shall be finally determined, at which delegates are chosen who are pledged to support a specified candidate on at least one ballot at a subsequent district or state convention required as part of the nominating process.

No report shall be required pursuant to this subsection if the candidate is or has become, by virtue of the withdrawal of any opponent or the operation of the rules and procedures of the party, unopposed for nomination at the time such report otherwise would be required to be made.

INTRODUCED

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