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HOUSE BILL NO. 2852

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 10, 2007

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-945.1 and 24.2-949.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to campaign finances; definitions; political action committees; statements of organization.

 Patron—Moran

 Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 24.2-945.1 and 24.2-949.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 24.2-945.1. Definitions.**

A. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Authorization" means express approval or express consent by the candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee after coordination.

"Campaign committee" means the committee designated by a candidate to receive all contributions and make all expenditures for him or on his behalf in connection with his nomination or election.

"Candidate" means "candidate" as defined in § 24.2-101.

"Contribution" means money and services of any amount, in-kind contributions, and any other thing of value, given, advanced, loaned, or in any other way provided to a candidate, campaign committee, political committee, or person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election or defraying the costs of the inauguration of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General. "Contribution" includes money, services, or things of value in any way provided by a candidate to his own campaign and the payment by the candidate of a filing fee for any party nomination method.

"Coordinated" or "coordination" refers to an expenditure that is made (i) at the express request or suggestion of a candidate, a candidate's campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee or (ii) with material involvement of the candidate, a candidate's campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee in devising the strategy, content, means of dissemination, or timing of the expenditure.

"Expenditure" means money and services of any amount, and any other thing of value, paid, loaned, provided, or in any other way disbursed by any candidate, campaign committee, political committee, or person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election or defraying the costs of the inauguration of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General.

"Federal political action committee" means any political action committee registered with the Federal Election Commission that makes contributions to candidates or political committees registered in Virginia.

"Inaugural committee" means any organization, person, or group of persons that anticipates receiving contributions or making expenditures, from other than publicly appropriated funds, for the inauguration of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General and related activities.

"Independent expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person, candidate campaign committee, or political committee that is not made to, controlled by, coordinated with, or made with the authorization of a candidate, his campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee. "Independent expenditure" includes an expenditure made by a candidate campaign committee (i) that is not related to the candidate's own campaign and (ii) that is not made to, controlled by, coordinated with, or made with the authorization of a different candidate, his campaign committee, or an agent of that candidate or his campaign committee.

"In-kind contribution" means the donation of goods, services, property, or other thing of value, other than money, including an expenditure controlled by, coordinated with, or made upon the authorization of a candidate, his campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee, that is provided for free or less than the usual and normal charge. The basis for arriving at the dollar value of an in-kind contribution is as follows: new items are valued at retail value; used items are valued at fair market value; and services rendered are valued at the actual cost of service per hour. Services shall not be deemed to include personal services voluntarily rendered for which no compensation is asked or given.

"Out-of-state political committee" means an entity covered by § 527 of the United States Internal Revenue Code that is not registered as a political committee or candidate campaign committee in Virginia and whose contributions made to political committees and candidate campaign committees registered in Virginia are 75% or less of their total expenditures in any calendar year that does not have

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59 *as its primary purpose to influence the outcome of nonfederal elections in Virginia.* The term shall not
60 include a federal political action committee.

61 "Person" means any individual or corporation, partnership, business, labor organization, membership
62 organization, association, cooperative, or other like entity.

63 "Political action committee" means any organization, person, or group of persons, established or
64 maintained ~~in whole or in part~~ to receive and expend contributions for the *primary* purpose of
65 influencing the outcome of ~~any election~~ *nonfederal elections in Virginia*. The term shall not include a
66 campaign committee, federal political action committee, out-of-state political committee, political party
67 committee, referendum committee, or inaugural committee.

68 "Political committee" means and includes any political action committee, political party committee,
69 referendum committee, or inaugural committee. The term shall not include: (i) a federal political action
70 committee or out-of-state political committee; (ii) a campaign committee; (iii) a political party committee
71 exempted pursuant to § 24.2-950.1; or (iv) a person who receives no contributions from any source and
72 whose only expenditures are made solely from his own funds and are either contributions made by him
73 which are reportable by the recipient pursuant to this chapter or independent expenditures which are
74 reportable by him to the extent required by § 24.2-945.2, or a combination of such reportable
75 contributions and independent expenditures.

76 "Political party committee" means any state political party committee, congressional district political
77 party committee, county or city political party committee, other election district political party
78 committee, or organized political party group of elected officials. This definition is subject to the
79 provisions of § 24.2-950.1.

80 "Referendum committee" means any organization, person, group of persons, or committee, that makes
81 expenditures in a calendar year in excess of (i) \$10,000 to advocate the passage or defeat of a statewide
82 referendum, (ii) \$5,000 to advocate the passage or defeat of a referendum being held in two or more
83 counties and cities, or (iii) \$1,000 to advocate the passage or defeat of a referendum held in a single
84 county or city.

85 "Residence" means "residence" or "resident" as defined in § 24.2-101.

86 "Statewide office" means the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General.

87 B. For the purpose of applying the filing and reporting requirements of this chapter, the terms
88 "person" and "political committee," shall not include an organization holding tax-exempt status under
89 § 501(c) (3), 501(c) (4), or 501(c) (6) of the United States Internal Revenue Code which, in providing
90 information to voters, does not advocate or endorse the election or defeat of a particular candidate,
91 group of candidates, or the candidates of a particular political party.

92 § 24.2-949.2. Statement of organization for a political action committee.

93 A. Except as provided in subsection B or C, each political action committee that anticipates receiving
94 contributions or making expenditures in excess of \$200 in a calendar year shall file with the State Board
95 a statement of organization within 10 days after its organization, or if later, within 10 days after the date
96 on which it has information that causes the committee to anticipate it will receive contributions or make
97 expenditures in excess of \$200 or on which it otherwise becomes subject to the provisions of this
98 chapter. Any change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization shall be reported
99 to the State Board within 10 days following the change.

100 The statement of organization shall include:

101 1. The name of the political action committee and its address in the Commonwealth;

102 2. The names, addresses, and relationships of affiliated or connected organizations;

103 3. The area, scope, or jurisdiction of the political action committee *accompanied by the statement*
104 *that the primary purpose of the committee is to influence the outcome of nonfederal elections in*
105 *Virginia*;

106 4. The name and business address of the treasurer and his residence address in the Commonwealth
107 who shall be deemed the agent of the political action committee for the purpose of service of process on
108 the political action committee;

109 5. The name, residence address in the Commonwealth, business address, and position of the
110 custodian of the books and accounts, who works under the direction of the treasurer, and the address in
111 the Commonwealth where the books are maintained;

112 6. The name, address, office sought, and party affiliation of each individual whom the political action
113 committee is supporting or opposing for nomination or for election to any public office whatever or, if
114 supporting the entire ticket of any party, the name of the party;

115 7. The designated depository to be used for the receipt and holding of funds and contributions
116 received by the political action committee, in an account in a financial institution within the
117 Commonwealth; and

118 8. Such other information as shall be required by the State Board except that the account number for
119 the designated depository account shall not be required.

120 *The State Board shall not register or issue a registration number to any political action committee*

that fails to state pursuant to subdivision 3 that its primary purpose is to influence the outcome of nonfederal elections in Virginia.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, a political action committee that is established or controlled by a corporation doing business in Virginia shall provide the following information in its statement of organization in lieu of the information required in subdivisions 1, 4, 5, and 7 of subsection A:

1. The name and address of the political action committee;
2. The name and residence and business addresses of the treasurer;
3. The name, residence address, and position of the custodian of the books who works under the direction of the treasurer; and
4. A listing of all banks, safe-deposit boxes, or other repositories used.

C. A federal political action committee that makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election in Virginia, other than federal elections, shall provide the following information in its statement of organization:

1. The name and address of the committee;
2. The committee's Federal Election Commission registration identification number; and
3. The name and address of its treasurer.

The State Board shall be required to provide a link from its Internet website to the federal political action committee's electronically displayed Federal Election Commission campaign finance disclosure reports.