

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-945.2, 24.2-955, and 24.2-955.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to campaign finance disclosure and political campaign advertisement requirements.

[H 1410]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-945.2, 24.2-955, and 24.2-955.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-945.2. Persons required to file independent expenditure disclosure reports; filing deadline.

A. Any person, candidate campaign committee, or political committee that makes independent expenditures, in the aggregate during an election cycle, of \$1,000 or more for a statewide election or \$500 \$200 or more for any other election shall maintain records and report pursuant to this chapter all such independent expenditures made for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.

B. Independent expenditure reports shall be due (i) within 24 hours of the time when the funds were expended or (ii) within 24 hours of the time when materials, as described in subsection A of this section, are published or broadcast to the public, whichever (i) or (ii) first occurs. The reports shall be filed with the State Board if the funds were expended to support or oppose a candidate for statewide office or the General Assembly or with the local electoral board of the county or city in which the candidate resides if the funds were expended to support or oppose a candidate for local office. The report filed by a political action committee or political party committee shall include the information required for a statement of organization as listed in subdivisions A1 through A8 of § 24.2-949.2 or clauses 1 through 6 of § 24.2-950.2, as appropriate, unless the committee has a current statement of organization on file with the State Board.

C. Independent expenditure reports required by this section may be filed electronically pursuant to § 24.2-946.1 or in writing on a form developed by the State Board. If the report is filed in writing, the report shall be (i) received by the State Board or the local electoral board, as appropriate, within 24 hours of the time when the funds were expended or (ii) transmitted to the State Board or the local electoral board, as appropriate, by telephonic transmission to a facsimile device within 24 hours of the time when the funds were expended with an original copy of the report mailed to the State Board or the local electoral board, as appropriate, and postmarked within 24 hours of the time when the funds were expended.

§ 24.2-955. Scope of disclosure requirements.

The disclosure requirements of this chapter apply to any sponsor of an advertisement in the print media or on radio or television the cost or value of which constitutes an expenditure or contribution required to be disclosed under Chapter 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) except that the disclosure requirements of this chapter do not apply to (i) an individual who makes independent expenditures aggregating less than \$1,000 in an election cycle for *or against* a candidate *for statewide office or less than \$200 in an election cycle for or against a candidate for any other office* or (ii) an individual who incurs expenses only with respect to a referendum.

§ 24.2-955.2. Publications not to receive compensation for advocating candidacy; penalties.

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner, proprietor, editor, manager, officer, clerk, agent, reporter, or employee of any newspaper, magazine, or periodical printed or published in this Commonwealth to accept or receive or agree to accept or receive, for himself or another, any money or other valuable consideration for such newspaper, magazine, or other periodical supporting or advocating the election or defeat of any candidate. But nothing in this section shall prevent any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the publication of any newspaper, magazine or periodical from receiving from any person compensation for printing and publishing any matter, article or articles advocating the election or defeat of any candidate, if a statement, "Paid Advertisement," appears in plain type in boldface Roman capitals in a conspicuous place at the beginning of the matter or article and the matter or article otherwise complies with the provisions of this chapter.

B. The person accepting a "Paid Advertisement" for the newspaper, magazine or periodical shall require, and for one year shall retain a copy of, proof of the identity of the person who submits the advertisement for publication when the authorization statement on the advertisement is made pursuant to this chapter by an individual or entity other than a candidate, candidate campaign committee, political party committee, or political action committee. Proof of identity shall be submitted either (i) in person

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57 and include a valid Virginia driver's license, or any other identification card issued by a government
58 agency of the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States, or (ii) other than in
59 person, in which case, the person submitting the advertisement shall provide a telephone number and the
60 person accepting the advertisement may phone the person to verify the validity of the person's
61 identifying information before publishing the advertisement. *Any candidate clearly identified in the*
62 *advertisement is entitled to the name of the person who submitted the advertisement after the publication*
63 *of the advertisement in the newspaper, magazine, or periodical.*

64 C. Any such owner, proprietor, editor, manager, officer, clerk, agent, reporter, or employee violating
65 the provisions of subsection A or B shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$50; and, in the
66 case of a willful violation, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The procedure to enforce the
67 civil penalty provided in this section shall be as stated in ~~article~~ *Article 8 of chapter Chapter 9.3.*