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**SENATE BILL NO. 568**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-947.4:2, relating to campaign finance; prohibited contributions to candidates; civil penalty.*

Patron—Stuart

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 24.2-947.4:2 as follows:**

**§ 24.2-947.4:2. *Prohibited contributions to candidates; public utility; civil penalty.***

A. *For the purposes of this section, "public utility" means any public utility as defined in § 56-232 and includes any subsidiary or parent company of such a public utility.*

B. *No public utility shall make any contribution to any committee or otherwise provide any money any other thing of value, given, advanced, loaned, or in any other way provided to any person or committee for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election.*

C. *Any violation of this section is subject to a civil penalty of three times the amount of the contribution or \$10,000, whichever is greater. Any civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall be payable to the State Treasurer for deposit to the general fund.*

D. *In addition to the procedures for enforcement of this section found in §§ 24.2-104, 24.2-104.1, and 24.2-946.3, any registered voter of the Commonwealth may file a petition with the circuit court of the city or county of residence of the treasurer or custodian of books of the committee to whom a contribution in violation of this section was made for enforcement of this section. Such petition shall contain reasonable evidence of a violation of this section.*

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