

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
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H. B. No. 594

Representative Seitz

**Cosponsors: Representatives Bird, Schmidt, Hillyer, Ray, Holmes, Young, T.,
Grendell, Hall**

A BILL

To amend sections 3517.081, 3517.10, 3517.102, 1
3517.1011, 3517.152, 3517.153, 3517.154, and 2
3517.992; to enact section 3517.158; and to 3
repeal section 3517.109 of the Revised Code to 4
make changes regarding the Ohio Elections 5
Commission and the campaign finance law. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3517.081, 3517.10, 3517.102, 7
3517.1011, 3517.152, 3517.153, 3517.154, and 3517.992 be amended 8
and section 3517.158 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 9
follows: 10

Sec. 3517.081. (A) Each candidate shall have no more than 11
one campaign committee for purposes of receiving contributions 12
and making expenditures. No campaign committee shall receive any 13
contribution or make any expenditure other than through the 14
campaign treasurer. The campaign treasurer shall file all 15
statements required of a candidate or campaign committee under 16
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 17

The candidate shall designate the candidate or a member of the candidate's campaign committee as the candidate's campaign treasurer as required by division (D) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. The campaign treasurer may appoint deputy campaign treasurers as required. Deputy campaign treasurers may exercise any of the powers and duties of a campaign treasurer when specifically authorized to do so by the campaign treasurer or the candidate.

Each candidate shall file a written statement, as required by division (D) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, setting forth the full name and address of the campaign treasurer and also of each deputy treasurer. Each candidate shall file supplemental statements giving the full name and address of each deputy treasurer at the time of appointment.

A candidate may remove the campaign treasurer or any deputy campaign treasurer at any time. In the case of death, resignation, or removal of the treasurer or deputy treasurer before compliance with all obligations of a campaign treasurer, the candidate shall fill the vacancy thus created in the same manner as provided in the case of an original appointment.

(B) (1) Two or more candidates may be the beneficiaries of a single campaign committee if all of the following apply:

(a) Each candidate is seeking nomination or election to the same office at the same election.

(b) The office for which each candidate is seeking nomination or election is the office of member of a board, commission, or other similar body of elected officials to which multiple members are nominated or elected at the same election.

(c) The number of candidates who will be the beneficiaries

of the campaign committee does not exceed the number of open 47
positions on the board, commission, or other similar body of 48
elected officials to which the candidates are seeking nomination 49
or election. 50

(d) The candidates jointly designate one of the candidates 51
or one member of the campaign committee as the treasurer of that 52
campaign committee as required under division (A) of this 53
section. 54

(e) The candidates jointly file the written statements 55
required under division (A) of this section. 56

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this division, any 57
penalty that may be imposed on a candidate under section 58
3517.992 of the Revised Code for a violation of this chapter 59
shall be imposed jointly and severally on each beneficiary of a 60
multi-beneficiary campaign committee. If the Ohio elections 61
commission or the appropriate prosecutor is able to determine 62
that a specific beneficiary of a multi-beneficiary campaign 63
committee violated this chapter, the applicable penalty under 64
section 3517.992 of the Revised Code shall be imposed only on 65
that candidate and not on the other beneficiaries of that multi- 66
beneficiary campaign committee. 67

(3) (a) If any of the following occur after a multi- 68
beneficiary campaign committee is established, that campaign 69
committee shall be terminated: 70

(i) The beneficiaries of the campaign committee disagree 71
as to the designation or removal of a campaign treasurer. 72

(ii) Any beneficiary of the campaign committee desires to 73
end the beneficiary's candidacy for the office for which the 74
beneficiaries are seeking nomination or election. 75

(iii) Any beneficiary of the campaign committee desires to form an individual campaign committee. 76
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(b) Prior to the termination of a multi-beneficiary campaign committee in accordance with division (B) (3) (a) of this section, any contributions received by that campaign committee that have not been expended shall be disposed of in one or more of the ~~manner provided in division (C) of section 3517.109 of the Revised Code~~ following manners: 78
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(i) Giving the amount to the treasurer of state for deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio elections commission fund created by division (I) of section 3517.152 of the Revised Code; 84
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(ii) Giving the amount to individuals who made contributions to that campaign committee as a refund of all or part of their contributions; 88
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(iii) Giving the amount to a corporation that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. 91
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No contributions from the multi-beneficiary campaign committee shall be contributed or transferred into any candidate's individual campaign committee. 94
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(4) No candidate who has a campaign committee for which that candidate is the sole beneficiary shall become the beneficiary of a campaign committee with multiple beneficiaries under division (B) (1) of this section unless the candidate first terminates the candidate's individual campaign committee. Prior to the termination of that individual campaign committee, any contributions received by that campaign committee that have not been expended shall be disposed of in the manner provided in 97
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division ~~(C)~~(B) (3) (b) of this section ~~3517.109 of the Revised~~ 105
~~Code~~. No contributions from the candidate's individual campaign 106
committee shall be contributed or transferred into the multi- 107
beneficiary campaign committee. 108

Sec. 3517.10. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 109
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 110
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 111
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 112
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 113
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 114
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on 115
a form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 116
transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 117
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made 118
under penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail 119
the contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of 120
the following dates: 121

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 122
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 123
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 124
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 125
before the election; 126

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect 127
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 128
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 129
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh 130
day before the filing of the statement; 131

(3) The last business day of January of every year to 132
reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from 133
the close of business on the last day reflected in the last 134

previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on 135
the last day of December of the previous year; 136

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 137
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 138
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 139
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last 140
day of June of that year. 141

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 142
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 143
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 144
committee's candidate. 145

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this 146
section shall not be required of any campaign committee, 147
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 148
party, or political contributing entity that has received 149
contributions of less than one thousand dollars and has made 150
expenditures of less than one thousand dollars at the close of 151
business on the twentieth day before the election. Those 152
contributions and expenditures shall be reported in the 153
statement required under division (A)(2) of this section. 154

If an election to select candidates to appear on the 155
general election ballot is held within sixty days before a 156
general election, the campaign committee of a successful 157
candidate in the earlier election may file the statement 158
required by division (A)(1) of this section for the general 159
election instead of the statement required by division (A)(2) of 160
this section for the earlier election if the pregeneral election 161
statement reflects the status of contributions and expenditures 162
for the period twenty days before the earlier election to twenty 163
days before the general election. 164

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to file the statement required by division (A) (1) of this section.

No statement under division (A) (3) of this section shall be required for any year in which a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral election statement under division (A) (2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A) (3) of this section may be filed, at the option of the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity.

No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in this state, shall be required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section.

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and the campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The campaign committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial office is required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section if that campaign committee receives, during that period, contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars.

No statement under division (A) (4) of this section shall be required of a campaign committee, a political action committee, a legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a

political contributing entity for any year in which the campaign 195
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 196
fund, political party, or political contributing entity is 197
required to file a postprimary election statement under division 198
(A) (2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A) 199
(4) of this section may be filed at the option of the campaign 200
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 201
fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 202

No statement under division (A) (3) or (4) of this section 203
shall be required if the campaign committee, political action 204
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 205
political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 206
received and no expenditures that it has made since the last 207
date reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, 208
the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 209
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 210
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed 211
under this section and made under penalty of election 212
falsification, on the date required in division (A) (3) or (4) of 213
this section, as applicable. 214

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file 215
a monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 216
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 217
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 218
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 219
statement not later than three business days after the last day 220
of the month covered by the statement. During the period 221
beginning on the nineteenth day before the general election in 222
which a statewide candidate seeks election to office and 223
extending through the day of that general election, each time 224
the campaign committee of the joint candidates for the offices 225

of governor and lieutenant governor or of a candidate for the 226
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 227
state, or attorney general receives a contribution from a 228
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 229
received from that contributor during that period to equal or 230
exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign committee 231
of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the 232
supreme court receives a contribution from a contributor that 233
causes the aggregate amount of contributions received from that 234
contributor during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, 235
the campaign committee shall file a two-business-day statement 236
reflecting that contribution. Contributions reported on a two- 237
business-day statement required to be filed by a campaign 238
committee of a statewide candidate in a primary election shall 239
also be included in the postprimary election statement required 240
to be filed by that campaign committee under division (A) (2) of 241
this section. A two-business-day statement required by this 242
paragraph shall be filed not later than two business days after 243
receipt of the contribution. The statements required by this 244
paragraph shall be filed in addition to any other statements 245
required by this section. 246

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 247
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 248
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C) (6) (b) 249
and (D) (6) of this section and division (F) (1) of section 250
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 251
statements by electronic means of transmission, a campaign 252
committee of a statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day 253
statement under the preceding paragraph by electronic means of 254
transmission if the campaign committee is required to file a 255
pre-election, postelection, or monthly statement of 256

contributions and expenditures by electronic means of 257
transmission under this section or section 3517.106 of the 258
Revised Code. 259

If a campaign committee or political action committee has 260
no balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 261
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 262
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 263
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 264
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a 265
final statement of contributions and a final statement of 266
expenditures, if contributions have been received or 267
expenditures made since the period reflected in its last 268
previously filed statement. If a campaign committee or political 269
action committee desires to terminate itself but has a balance 270
on hand, it may proceed under division (A) of section 3517.158 271
of the Revised Code. 272

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (7) of 273
this section, each statement required by division (A) of this 274
section shall contain the following information: 275

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 276
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 277
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 278
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 279
and expenditure statement; 280

(2) (a) In the case of a campaign committee, the 281
candidate's full name and address; 282

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 283
registration number assigned to the committee under division (D) 284
(1) of this section. 285

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be	286
a general, primary, or special election;	287
(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall	288
include the following information:	289
(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution;	290
(b) (i) The full name and address of each person, political	291
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political	292
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom	293
contributions are received and the registration number assigned	294
to the political action committee under division (D) (1) of this	295
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not	296
apply to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a	297
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to	298
a committee recognized by a state or local committee as its	299
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this	300
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be	301
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address	302
the contributor provided under division (E) (1) of this section.	303
(ii) If a political action committee, political	304
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political	305
party that is required to file campaign finance statements by	306
electronic means of transmission under section 3517.106 of the	307
Revised Code or a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or	308
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly	309
receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one	310
hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer,	311
if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's	312
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any;	313
(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or	314

candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 315
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 316
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 317
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 318
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 319
(A) (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 320
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization 321
of which the employees are members, if any. 322

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other 323
than money; 324

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 325

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and 326
expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a 327
contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or 328
less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a 329
contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the 330
Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries 331
of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from 332
the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars 333
or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total 334
contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall 335
include a description of and the value of each in-kind 336
contribution received at that activity from any person who made 337
one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded 338
two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, 339
together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with 340
that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, 341
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 342
contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from 343
each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one 344

social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts 345
deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the 346
wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five 347
dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing 348
association that is recognized by a state or local committee of 349
a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a 350
contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by 351
members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or 352
address of any members who paid those dues. 353

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized 354
separately from all other contributions. The information 355
required under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided 356
for all other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other 357
income" means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 358

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected 359
officer, if a person doing business with the state elected 360
officer in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution 361
to the campaign committee of that officer, the information 362
required under division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that 363
contribution, which shall be filed together with and considered 364
a part of the committee's statement of contributions as required 365
under division (A) of this section but shall be filed on a 366
separate form provided by the secretary of state. As used in 367
this division: 368

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in 369
section 3517.092 of the Revised Code. 370

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer 371
of an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state 372
elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on 373
behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or 374

services, if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than 375
five thousand dollars during a calendar year. 376

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the 377
following information: 378

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure; 379

(b) The full name and address of each person, political 380
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 381
action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the 382
expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the 383
political action committee under division (D) (1) of this 384
section; 385

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was 386
made; 387

(d) The amount of each expenditure. 388

(C) (1) The statement of contributions and expenditures 389
shall be signed by the person completing the form. If a 390
statement of contributions and expenditures is filed by 391
electronic means of transmission pursuant to this section or 392
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the electronic signature 393
of the person who executes the statement and transmits the 394
statement by electronic means of transmission, as provided in 395
division (F) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall be 396
attached to or associated with the statement and shall be 397
binding on all persons and for all purposes under the campaign 398
finance reporting law as if the signature had been handwritten 399
in ink on a printed form. 400

(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of 401
election falsification, shall include with it a list of each 402
anonymous contribution, the circumstances under which it was 403

received, and the reason it cannot be attributed to a specific donor. 404
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(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate who holds public office shall contain a designation of each contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under the candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space provided in the statement, the person filing the statement shall affirm that each such contribution was voluntarily made. 406
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(4) A campaign committee that did not receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with the nomination or election of its candidate shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of election falsification, on the date required in division (A) (2) of this section. 412
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(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state, and who, at any time prior to or after an election, receives contributions or makes expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing about the person's nomination or election to public office, shall file the statement or statements prescribed by this section and a termination statement, if applicable. Division (C) (5) of this section does not apply to any person with respect to an election to the offices of member of a county or state central committee, presidential elector, or delegate to a national convention or conference of a political party. 418
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(6) (a) The statements required to be filed under this 433

section shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign 434
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 435
fund, political party, or political contributing entity and the 436
disposition intended to be made of that balance. 437

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for 438
all statements required to be filed under this section and shall 439
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 440
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 441
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall 442
prescribe the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file 443
structure for statements required or permitted to be filed by 444
electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state or a 445
board of elections under division (A) of this section, division 446
(E) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, 447
division (B) of section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 448
3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the 449
Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this section, division 450
(E) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, 451
division (B) of section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 452
3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the 453
Revised Code, the statements required to be stored on computer 454
by the secretary of state under division (B) of section 3517.106 455
of the Revised Code shall be filed in whatever format the 456
secretary of state considers necessary to enable the secretary 457
of state to store the information contained in the statements on 458
computer. Any such format shall be of a type and nature that is 459
readily available to whoever is required to file the statements 460
in that format. 461

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for 462
training regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by 463
electronic means of transmission and regarding associated 464

technologies for candidates, campaign committees, political 465
action committees, legislative campaign funds, political 466
parties, or political contributing entities, for individuals, 467
partnerships, or other entities, for persons making 468
disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or airing 469
electioneering communications, or for treasurers of transition 470
funds, required or permitted to file statements by electronic 471
means of transmission under this section or section 3517.105, 472
3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the 473
Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the secretary of state, 474
training in these areas is necessary, the secretary of state 475
shall arrange for the provision of voluntary training programs 476
for candidates, campaign committees, political action 477
committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, or 478
political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 479
and other entities, for persons making disbursements to pay the 480
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 481
communications, or for treasurers of transition funds, as 482
appropriate. 483

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 484
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 485
the information required by divisions (B) (1) to (4), (C) (2), 486
and, if appropriate, (C) (3) of this section. Each statement 487
shall be signed as required by division (C) (1) of this section. 488

(D) (1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 489
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action 490
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 491
political contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and 492
shall file, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, a 493
designation of that appointment, including the full name and 494
address of the treasurer and of the campaign committee, 495

political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 496
party, or political contributing entity. That designation shall 497
be filed with the official with whom the campaign committee, 498
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 499
party, or political contributing entity is required to file 500
statements under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name 501
of a campaign committee shall include at least the last name of 502
the campaign committee's candidate. If two or more candidates 503
are the beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under 504
division (B) of section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name 505
of the campaign committee shall include at least the last name 506
of each candidate who is a beneficiary of that campaign 507
committee. The secretary of state shall assign a registration 508
number to each political action committee that files a 509
designation of the appointment of a treasurer under this 510
division if the political action committee is required by 511
division (A) (1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code to file 512
the statements prescribed by this section with the secretary of 513
state. 514

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D) (1) of this 515
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 516
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 517

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 518
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all 519
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 520
separate from a personal or business account of the candidate or 521
campaign committee. 522

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all 523
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 524
separate from all other funds. 525

(c) A state or county political party may establish a state candidate fund that is separate from all other funds. A state or county political party may deposit into its state candidate fund any amounts of monetary contributions that are made to or accepted by the political party subject to the applicable limitations, if any, prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. A state or county political party shall deposit all other monetary contributions received by the party into one or more accounts that are separate from its state candidate fund.

(d) Each state political party shall have only one legislative campaign fund for each house of the general assembly. Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds or accounts of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is authorized to receive contributions and make expenditures for the primary purpose of furthering the election of candidates who are members of that political party to the house of the general assembly with which that legislative campaign fund is associated. Each legislative campaign fund shall be administered and controlled in a manner designated by the caucus. As used in this division, "caucus" has the same meaning as in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code and includes, as an ex officio member, the chairperson of the state political party with which the caucus is associated or that chairperson's designee.

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars shall be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of the expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division (D) (4) of this section.

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as 556
the case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed 557
under this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for 558
a period of at least six years. All statements filed under this 559
section shall be open to public inspection in the office where 560
they are filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of 561
at least six years after the year in which they are filed. 562

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 563
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 564
following: 565

(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and 566
time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are 567
transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary 568
of state or a board of elections pursuant to this section or 569
section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 570
of the Revised Code; 571

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and 572
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 573
disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 574
disbursement information in the statements described in division 575
(D) (6) (a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve 576
the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 577
deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 578
disbursement information in those statements for at least ten 579
years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means 580
of transmission. 581

(7) (a) The secretary of state, pursuant to division (G) of 582
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available 583
online to the public through the internet the contribution and 584
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 585

disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 586
disbursement information in all of the following documents: 587

(i) All statements, all addenda, amendments, or other 588
corrections to statements, and all amended statements filed with 589
the secretary of state by electronic or other means of 590
transmission under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) 591
of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 592
3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code; 593

(ii) All statements filed with a board of elections by 594
electronic means of transmission, and all addenda, amendments, 595
corrections, and amended versions of those statements, filed 596
with the board under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) 597
(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1012, or 598
3517.11 of the Revised Code. 599

(b) The secretary of state may remove the information from 600
the internet after a reasonable period of time. 601

(E) (1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 602
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 603
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 604
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or 605
in connection with any ballot issue or question at any election 606
held or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 607
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 608
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 609
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 610
division (D) (1) of this section to the recipient of the 611
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 612

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds 613
one hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 614

contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 615
party or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 616
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly shall 617
provide the name of the individual's current employer, if any, 618
or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 619
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, to 620
the recipient of the contribution at the time the contribution 621
is made. Sections 3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not 622
apply to division (E) (2) of this section. 623

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised 624
its best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 625
required under divisions (B) (4) (b) (ii) and (iii) of this 626
section, that committee is considered to have met the 627
requirements of those divisions. A campaign committee shall not 628
be considered to have exercised its best efforts unless, in 629
connection with written solicitations, it regularly includes a 630
written request for the information required under division (B) 631
(4) (b) (ii) of this section from the contributor or the 632
information required under division (B) (4) (b) (iii) of this 633
section from whoever transmits the contribution. 634

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to 635
make a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full 636
name and address of the committee and the registration number 637
assigned to the committee under division (D) (1) of this section. 638

(F) As used in this section: 639

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (1) of 640
this section, "address" means all of the following if they 641
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and 642
number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and 643
zip code as used in a person's post-office address, but not 644

post-office box. 645

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of 646
this section, if an address is required in this section, a post- 647
office box and office, room, or suite number may be included in 648
addition to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or 649
highway name and number. 650

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 651
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 652
fund, political party, or political contributing entity may use 653
the business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 654
treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 655
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 656
party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition 657
to that address. 658

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's 659
reporting of contributions on a statement of contributions 660
received under division (B)(4) of this section, "address" has 661
one of the following meanings at the option of the campaign 662
committee: 663

(i) The same meaning as in division (F)(1)(a) of this 664
section; 665

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the 666
contributor's post-office box number and city or village, state, 667
and zip code as used in the contributor's post-office address. 668

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this 669
section of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following 670
if they exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name 671
and number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, 672
and zip code as used in a person's post-office address, or post- 673

office box. If an address concerning any expenditure is required 674
in this section, a campaign committee, political action 675
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 676
political contributing entity may use the business or residence 677
address of its treasurer or deputy treasurer or its post-office 678
box number. 679

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for 680
the offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate 681
for the office of secretary of state, auditor of state, 682
treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state board 683
of education, chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of 684
the supreme court. 685

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for 686
the office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the 687
court of common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas, 688
sheriff, county recorder, county engineer, county commissioner, 689
prosecuting attorney, or coroner. 690

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever 691
and in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be 692
reported under this section and shall be reported pursuant to 693
division (B) (2) (a) or (C) (2) (a) of section 3517.105 of the 694
Revised Code. 695

(H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (2) of 696
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and 697
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign 698
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or 699
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five 700
hundred dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect, 701
under penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the 702
statement required by division (A) (2) of this section. The 703

statement shall indicate the total amount of contributions 704
received and the total amount of expenditures made during those 705
combined reporting periods. 706

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 707
election, if either the total contributions received by or the 708
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee 709
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral 710
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars, 711
the campaign committee may file the statement under division (H) 712
(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first 713
statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 714
general election shall reflect all contributions received and 715
all expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary 716
election periods. 717

(3) Divisions (H) (1) and (2) of this section do not apply 718
if a campaign committee receives contributions or makes 719
expenditures prior to the first day of January of the year of 720
the election at which the candidate seeks nomination or election 721
to office or if the campaign committee does not file a 722
termination statement with its postprimary election statement in 723
the case of an unsuccessful primary election candidate or with 724
its postgeneral election statement in the case of other 725
candidates. 726

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 727
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 728
business from any funds of the partnership or other 729
unincorporated business, all of the following apply: 730

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 731
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 732
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 733

member making the contribution. 734

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 735
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 736
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 737
business, provided that the information includes one of the 738
following: 739

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 740
date of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that 741
the total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of 742
the partners, owners, or members; or 743

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 744
date of the contribution or contributions who is participating 745
in the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 746
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 747
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 748
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 749
the contribution. 750

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, 751
the contribution shall be considered to have been made by the 752
partner, owner, or member reported under division (I) (1) of this 753
section. 754

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 755
owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 756
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other 757
unincorporated business unless the recipient reports the 758
contribution under division (I) (1) of this section together with 759
the information provided under division (I) (2) of this section. 760

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 761
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 762

partnership or other unincorporated business. 763

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership 764
or other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited 765
to, a cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, 766
a limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a 767
limited liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 768

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at 769
any given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 770
candidate or holds office. 771

(K) (1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment 772
of a treasurer under division (D) (1) of this section, the 773
campaign committee of any candidate for an elected municipal 774
office that pays an annual amount of compensation of five 775
thousand dollars or less, the campaign committee of any 776
candidate for member of a board of education except member of 777
the state board of education, or the campaign committee of any 778
candidate for township trustee or township fiscal officer may 779
sign, under penalty of election falsification, a certificate 780
attesting that the committee will not accept contributions 781
during an election period that exceed in the aggregate two 782
thousand dollars from all contributors and one hundred dollars 783
from any one individual, and that the campaign committee will 784
not make expenditures during an election period that exceed in 785
the aggregate two thousand dollars. 786

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 787
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 788
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and 789
petition, a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to 790
be a write-in candidate. 791

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K) (3) of 792
this section, a campaign committee that files a certificate 793
under division (K) (1) of this section is not required to file 794
the statements required by division (A) of this section. 795

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K) (1) 796
of this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the 797
limitations described in that division during an election 798
period, the certificate is void and thereafter the campaign 799
committee shall file the statements required by division (A) of 800
this section. If the campaign committee has not previously filed 801
a statement, then on the first statement the campaign committee 802
is required to file under division (A) of this section after the 803
committee's certificate is void, the committee shall report all 804
contributions received and expenditures made from the time the 805
candidate filed the candidate's declaration of candidacy and 806
petition, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a 807
write-in candidate. 808

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 809
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 810
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 811
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 812
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 813
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 814
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 815
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 816

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 817
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other 818
assessments of its members or from its officers, shareholders, 819
and employees may report the aggregate amount of contributions 820
received from those contributors and the number of individuals 821

making those contributions, for each filing period under 822
divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, rather than 823
reporting information as required under division (B) (4) of this 824
section, including, when applicable, the name of the current 825
employer, if any, of a contributor whose contribution exceeds 826
one hundred dollars or, if such a contributor is self-employed, 827
the contributor's occupation and the name of the contributor's 828
business, if any. Division (B) (4) of this section applies to a 829
political contributing entity with regard to contributions it 830
receives from all other contributors. 831

Sec. 3517.102. (A) Except as otherwise provided in section 832
3517.103 of the Revised Code, as used in this section and 833
sections 3517.103 and 3517.104 of the Revised Code: 834

(1) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in section 3517.01 835
of the Revised Code but includes only candidates for the offices 836
of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of 837
state, treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state 838
board of education, member of the general assembly, chief 839
justice of the supreme court, and justice of the supreme court. 840

(2) "Statewide candidate" or "any one statewide candidate" 841
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 842
lieutenant governor or a candidate for the office of secretary 843
of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state, attorney 844
general, member of the state board of education, chief justice 845
of the supreme court, or justice of the supreme court. 846

(3) "Senate candidate" means a candidate for the office of 847
state senator. 848

(4) "House candidate" means a candidate for the office of 849
state representative. 850

(5) (a) "Primary election period" for a candidate ~~begins on~~ 851
~~the beginning date of the candidate's pre-filing period~~ 852
~~specified in division (A) (9) of section 3517.109 of the Revised~~ 853
~~Code and ends on the day of the primary election, and begins on~~ 854
the latest date of the following: 855

(i) The first day of January of the year following the 856
general election in which that state office was last on the 857
ballot; 858

(ii) The first day of January of the year following the 859
general election in which the candidate was last a candidate for 860
any office; 861

(iii) The first day of the month following the primary 862
election in which the candidate was last a candidate for any 863
office. 864

(b) In regard to any candidate, the "general election 865
period" begins on the day after the primary election immediately 866
preceding the general election at which the candidate seeks an 867
office specified in division (A) (1) of this section and ends on 868
the thirty-first day of December following that general 869
election. 870

(6) "State candidate fund" means the state candidate fund 871
established by a state or county political party under division 872
(D) (3) (c) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 873

(7) "Postgeneral election statement" means the statement 874
filed under division (A) (2) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 875
Code by the campaign committee of a candidate after the general 876
election in which the candidate ran for office or filed by 877
legislative campaign fund after the general election in an even- 878
numbered year. 879

(8) "Contribution" means any contribution that is required 880
to be reported in the statement of contributions under section 881
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 882

(9) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (9) (b) 883
of this section, "designated state campaign committee" means: 884

(i) In the case of contributions to or from a state 885
political party, a campaign committee of a statewide candidate, 886
statewide officeholder, senate candidate, house candidate, or 887
member of the general assembly. 888

(ii) In the case of contributions to or from a county 889
political party, a campaign committee of a senate candidate or 890
house candidate whose candidacy is to be submitted to some or 891
all of the electors in that county, or member of the general 892
assembly whose district contains all or part of that county. 893

(iii) In the case of contributions to or from a 894
legislative campaign fund, a campaign committee of any of the 895
following: 896

(I) A senate or house candidate who, if elected, will be a 897
member of the same party that established the legislative 898
campaign fund and the same house with which the legislative 899
campaign fund is associated; 900

(II) A state senator or state representative who is a 901
member of the same party that established the legislative 902
campaign fund and the same house with which the legislative 903
campaign fund is associated. 904

(b) A campaign committee is no longer a "designated state 905
campaign committee" after the campaign committee's candidate 906
changes the designation of treasurer required to be filed under 907
division (D) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code to 908

indicate that the person intends to be a candidate for, or 909
becomes a candidate for nomination or election to, any office 910
that, if elected, would not qualify that candidate's campaign 911
committee as a "designated state campaign committee" under 912
division (A) (9) (a) of this section. 913

(B) (1) (a) No individual who is seven years of age or older 914
shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more 915
than: 916

(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 917
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a 918
general election period; 919

(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 920
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a 921
general election period; 922

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of 923
any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a 924
general election period; 925

(iv) Ten thousand dollars to a county political party of 926
the county in which the individual's designated Ohio residence 927
is located for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar 928
year; 929

(v) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative 930
campaign fund in a calendar year; 931

(vi) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political 932
party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year; 933

(vii) Ten thousand dollars to any one political action 934
committee in a calendar year; 935

(viii) Ten thousand dollars to any one political 936

contributing entity in a calendar year.	937
(b) No individual shall make a contribution or	938
contributions to the state candidate fund of a county political	939
party of any county other than the county in which the	940
individual's designated Ohio residence is located.	941
(c) No individual who is under seven years of age shall	942
make any contribution.	943
(2) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no	944
political action committee shall make a contribution or	945
contributions aggregating more than:	946
(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any	947
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a	948
general election period;	949
(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any	950
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a	951
general election period;	952
(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of	953
any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a	954
general election period;	955
(iv) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative	956
campaign fund in a calendar year;	957
(v) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political	958
party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year;	959
(vi) Ten thousand dollars to another political action	960
committee or to a political contributing entity in a calendar	961
year. This division does not apply to a political action	962
committee that makes a contribution to a political action	963
committee or a political contributing entity affiliated with it.	964

For purposes of this division, a political action committee is 965
affiliated with another political action committee or with a 966
political contributing entity if they are both established, 967
financed, maintained, or controlled by, or if they are, the same 968
corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 969
association, or other person, including any parent, subsidiary, 970
division, or department of that corporation, organization, labor 971
organization, continuing association, or other person. 972

(b) No political action committee shall make a 973
contribution or contributions to a county political party for 974
the party's state candidate fund. 975

(3) No campaign committee shall make a contribution or 976
contributions aggregating more than: 977

(a) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 978
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a 979
general election period; 980

(b) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 981
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a 982
general election period; 983

(c) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 984
one house candidate in a primary election period or in a general 985
election period; 986

(d) Ten thousand dollars to any one political action 987
committee in a calendar year; 988

(e) Ten thousand dollars to any one political contributing 989
entity in a calendar year. 990

(4) (a) Subject to division (D) (3) of this section, no 991
political party shall make a contribution or contributions 992

aggregating more than ten thousand dollars to any one political	993
action committee or to any one political contributing entity in	994
a calendar year.	995
(b) No county political party shall make a contribution or	996
contributions to another county political party.	997
(5) (a) Subject to division (B) (5) (b) of this section, no	998
campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign	999
committee, shall make a contribution or contributions	1000
aggregating in a calendar year more than:	1001
(i) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political	1002
party for the party's state candidate fund;	1003
(ii) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative	1004
campaign fund;	1005
(iii) Ten thousand dollars to any one county political	1006
party for the party's state candidate fund.	1007
(b) No campaign committee shall make a contribution or	1008
contributions to a county political party for the party's state	1009
candidate fund unless one of the following applies:	1010
(i) The campaign committee's candidate will appear on a	1011
ballot in that county.	1012
(ii) The campaign committee's candidate is the holder of	1013
an elected public office that represents all or part of the	1014
population of that county at the time the contribution is made.	1015
(6) (a) No state candidate fund of a county political party	1016
shall make a contribution or contributions, except a	1017
contribution or contributions to a designated state campaign	1018
committee, in a primary election period or a general election	1019
period, aggregating more than:	1020

(i) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate;	1021 1022
(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate;	1023 1024
(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate.	1025 1026
(b) (i) No state candidate fund of a state or county political party shall make a transfer or a contribution or transfers or contributions of cash or cash equivalents to a designated state campaign committee in a primary election period or in a general election period aggregating more than:	1027 1028 1029 1030 1031
(I) Five hundred thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate;	1032 1033
(II) One hundred thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate;	1034 1035
(III) Fifty thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate.	1036 1037
(ii) No legislative campaign fund shall make a transfer or a contribution or transfers or contributions of cash or cash equivalents to a designated state campaign committee aggregating more than:	1038 1039 1040 1041
(I) Fifty thousand dollars in a primary election period or one hundred thousand dollars in a general election period to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate;	1042 1043 1044
(II) Twenty-five thousand dollars in a primary election period or fifty thousand dollars in a general election period to the campaign committee of any one house candidate.	1045 1046 1047

(iii) As used in divisions (B) (6) (b) and (C) (6) of this section, "transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents" does not include any in-kind contributions.

(c) A county political party that has no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand may make one or more contributions from other accounts to any one statewide candidate or to any one designated state campaign committee that do not exceed, in the aggregate, two thousand five hundred dollars in any primary election period or general election period.

(d) No legislative campaign fund shall make a contribution, other than to a designated state campaign committee or to the state candidate fund of a political party.

(7) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no political contributing entity shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more than:

(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;

(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;

(iv) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year;

(v) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political

party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year; 1076

(vi) Ten thousand dollars to another political 1077
contributing entity or to a political action committee in a 1078
calendar year. This division does not apply to a political 1079
contributing entity that makes a contribution to a political 1080
contributing entity or a political action committee affiliated 1081
with it. For purposes of this division, a political contributing 1082
entity is affiliated with another political contributing entity 1083
or with a political action committee if they are both 1084
established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or if they 1085
are, the same corporation, organization, labor organization, 1086
continuing association, or other person, including any parent, 1087
subsidiary, division, or department of that corporation, 1088
organization, labor organization, continuing association, or 1089
other person. 1090

(b) No political contributing entity shall make a 1091
contribution or contributions to a county political party for 1092
the party's state candidate fund. 1093

(C) (1) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no 1094
campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall do any of the 1095
following: 1096

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1097
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1098

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1099
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 1100
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 1101
committee, from any one political contributing entity, or from 1102
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 1103
in a general election period; 1104

(iii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1105
more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars from any one or 1106
combination of state candidate funds of county political parties 1107
in a primary election period or in a general election period. 1108

(b) No campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall 1109
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 1110
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 1111
a general election period from a county political party that has 1112
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 1113
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 1114

(2) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section and 1115
except for a designated state campaign committee, no campaign 1116
committee of a senate candidate shall do either of the 1117
following: 1118

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1119
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1120

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1121
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 1122
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 1123
committee, from any one political contributing entity, from any 1124
one state candidate fund of a county political party, or from 1125
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 1126
in a general election period. 1127

(b) No campaign committee of a senate candidate shall 1128
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 1129
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 1130
a general election period from a county political party that has 1131
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 1132
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 1133

(3) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section and 1134
except for a designated state campaign committee, no campaign 1135
committee of a house candidate shall do either of the following: 1136

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1137
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1138

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1139
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 1140
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 1141
committee, from any one political contributing entity, from any 1142
one state candidate fund of a county political party, or from 1143
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 1144
in a general election period. 1145

(b) No campaign committee of a house candidate shall 1146
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 1147
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 1148
a general election period from a county political party that has 1149
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 1150
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 1151

(4) (a) (i) Subject to division (C) (4) (a) (ii) of this 1152
section and except for a designated state campaign committee, no 1153
county political party shall knowingly accept a contribution or 1154
contributions from any individual who is under seven years of 1155
age, or accept a contribution or contributions for the party's 1156
state candidate fund aggregating more than ten thousand dollars 1157
from any one individual whose designated Ohio residence is 1158
located within that county and who is seven years of age or 1159
older or from any one campaign committee in a calendar year. 1160

(ii) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no county 1161
political party shall accept a contribution or contributions for 1162

the party's state candidate fund from any individual whose 1163
designated Ohio residence is located outside of that county and 1164
who is seven years of age or older, from any campaign committee 1165
unless the campaign committee's candidate will appear on a 1166
ballot in that county or unless the campaign committee's 1167
candidate is the holder of an elected public office that 1168
represents all or part of the population of that county at the 1169
time the contribution is accepted, or from any political action 1170
committee or any political contributing entity. 1171

(iii) No county political party shall accept a 1172
contribution or contributions from any other county political 1173
party. 1174

(b) Subject to division (D)(1) of this section, no state 1175
political party shall do either of the following: 1176

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1177
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1178

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions for the 1179
party's state candidate fund aggregating more than thirty 1180
thousand dollars from any one individual who is seven years of 1181
age or older, from any one political action committee, from any 1182
one political contributing entity, or from any one campaign 1183
committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, in 1184
a calendar year. 1185

(5) Subject to division (D)(1) of this section, no 1186
legislative campaign fund shall do either of the following: 1187

(a) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1188
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1189

(b) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1190
more than fifteen thousand dollars from any one individual who 1191

is seven years of age or older, from any one political action committee, from any one political contributing entity, or from any one campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, in a calendar year.

(6) (a) No designated state campaign committee shall accept a transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents from a state candidate fund of a state political party aggregating in a primary election period or a general election period more than:

(i) Five hundred thousand dollars, in the case of a campaign committee of a statewide candidate;

(ii) One hundred thousand dollars, in the case of a campaign committee of a senate candidate;

(iii) Fifty thousand dollars, in the case of a campaign committee of a house candidate.

(b) No designated state campaign committee shall accept a transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents from a legislative campaign fund aggregating more than:

(i) Fifty thousand dollars in a primary election period or one hundred thousand dollars in a general election period, in the case of a campaign committee of a senate candidate;

(ii) Twenty-five thousand dollars in a primary election period or fifty thousand dollars in a general election period, in the case of a campaign committee of a house candidate.

(c) No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly, including a designated state campaign committee, shall accept a transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents from any one or combination of state candidate funds of county political parties aggregating in a

primary election period or a general election period more than: 1220

(i) One hundred thousand dollars, in the case of a 1221
campaign committee of a senate candidate; 1222

(ii) Fifty thousand dollars, in the case of a campaign 1223
committee of a house candidate. 1224

(7) (a) Subject to division (D) (3) of this section, no 1225
political action committee and no political contributing entity 1226
shall do either of the following: 1227

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 1228
any individual who is under seven years of age; 1229

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 1230
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 1231
seven years of age or older, from any one campaign committee, or 1232
from any one political party in a calendar year. 1233

(b) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no 1234
political action committee shall accept a contribution or 1235
contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars from 1236
another political action committee or from a political 1237
contributing entity in a calendar year. Subject to division (D) 1238
(1) of this section, no political contributing entity shall 1239
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten 1240
thousand dollars from another political contributing entity or 1241
from a political action committee in a calendar year. This 1242
division does not apply to a political action committee or 1243
political contributing entity that accepts a contribution from a 1244
political action committee or political contributing entity 1245
affiliated with it. For purposes of this division, a political 1246
action committee is affiliated with another political action 1247
committee or with a political contributing entity if they are 1248

both established, financed, maintained, or controlled by the 1249
same corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 1250
association, or other person, including any parent, subsidiary, 1251
division, or department of that corporation, organization, labor 1252
organization, continuing association, or other person. 1253

(D) (1) (a) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in 1254
division (B) (2) of this section and the limitations prescribed 1255
in divisions (C) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7) (b) of this 1256
section, whichever is applicable, all contributions made by and 1257
all contributions accepted from political action committees that 1258
are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or that 1259
are, the same corporation, organization, labor organization, 1260
continuing association, or other person, including any parent, 1261
subsidiary, division, or department of that corporation, 1262
organization, labor organization, continuing association, or 1263
other person, are considered to have been made by or accepted 1264
from a single political action committee. 1265

(b) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in division 1266
(B) (7) of this section and the limitations prescribed in 1267
divisions (C) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7) (b) of this 1268
section, whichever is applicable, all contributions made by and 1269
all contributions accepted from political contributing entities 1270
that are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or 1271
that are, the same corporation, organization, labor 1272
organization, continuing association, or other person, including 1273
any parent, subsidiary, division, or department of that 1274
corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 1275
association, or other person, are considered to have been made 1276
by or accepted from a single political contributing entity. 1277

(2) As used in divisions (B) (1) (a) (vii), (B) (3) (d), (B) (4) 1278

(a), and (C) (7) of this section, "political action committee" 1279
does not include a political action committee that is organized 1280
to support or oppose a ballot issue or question and that makes 1281
no contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a political 1282
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 1283
action committee, or political contributing entity. As used in 1284
divisions (B) (1) (a) (viii), (B) (3) (e), (B) (4) (a), and (C) (7) of 1285
this section, "political contributing entity" does not include a 1286
political contributing entity that is organized to support or 1287
oppose a ballot issue or question and that makes no 1288
contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a political party, 1289
campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action 1290
committee, or political contributing entity. 1291

(3) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in 1292
divisions (B) (4) and (C) (7) (a) of this section, all 1293
contributions made by and all contributions accepted from a 1294
national political party, a state political party, and a county 1295
political party are considered to have been made by or accepted 1296
from a single political party and shall be combined with each 1297
other to determine whether the limitations have been exceeded. 1298

(E) (1) If a legislative campaign fund has kept a total 1299
amount of contributions exceeding one hundred fifty thousand 1300
dollars at the close of business on the seventh day before the 1301
postgeneral election statement is required to be filed under 1302
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, the legislative campaign 1303
fund shall comply with division (E) (2) of this section. 1304

(2) (a) Any legislative campaign fund that has kept a total 1305
amount of contributions in excess of the amount specified in 1306
division (E) (1) of this section at the close of business on the 1307
seventh day before the postgeneral election statement is 1308

required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1309
shall dispose of the excess amount in the manner prescribed in 1310
division (E) (2) (b) (i), (ii), or (iii) of this section not later 1311
than ninety days after the day the postgeneral election 1312
statement is required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the 1313
Revised Code. Any legislative campaign fund that is required to 1314
dispose of an excess amount of contributions under this division 1315
shall file a statement on the ninetieth day after the 1316
postgeneral election statement is required to be filed under 1317
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code indicating the total amount 1318
of contributions the fund has at the close of business on the 1319
seventh day before the postgeneral election statement is 1320
required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1321
and that the excess contributions were disposed of pursuant to 1322
this division and division (E) (2) (b) of this section. The 1323
statement shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 1324
state and shall contain any additional information the secretary 1325
of state considers necessary. 1326

(b) Any legislative campaign fund that is required to 1327
dispose of an excess amount of contributions under division (E) 1328
(2) of this section shall dispose of that excess amount by doing 1329
any of the following: 1330

(i) Giving the amount to the treasurer of state for 1331
deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio 1332
elections commission fund created by division (I) of section 1333
3517.152 of the Revised Code; 1334

(ii) Giving the amount to individuals who made 1335
contributions to that legislative campaign fund as a refund of 1336
all or part of their contributions; 1337

(iii) Giving the amount to a corporation that is exempt 1338

from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and 1339
described in subsection 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. 1340

(F) (1) No legislative campaign fund shall fail to file a 1341
statement required by division (E) of this section. 1342

(2) No legislative campaign fund shall fail to dispose of 1343
excess contributions as required by division (E) of this 1344
section. 1345

(G) Nothing in this section shall affect, be used in 1346
determining, or supersede a limitation on campaign contributions 1347
as provided for in the Federal Election Campaign Act. 1348

Sec. 3517.1011. (A) As used in this section: 1349

(1) "Address" has the same meaning as in section 3517.10 1350
of the Revised Code. 1351

(2) "Broadcast, cable, or satellite communication" means a 1352
communication that is publicly distributed by a television 1353
station, radio station, cable television system, or satellite 1354
system. 1355

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 1356
of the Revised Code. 1357

(4) "Contribution" means any loan, gift, deposit, 1358
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 1359
transfer of funds or of anything of value, including a transfer 1360
of funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 1361
estate, and the payment by any person other than the person to 1362
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 1363
another person, that is made, received, or used to pay the 1364
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 1365
communications. 1366

(5) (a) "Coordinated electioneering communication" means 1367
any electioneering communication that is made pursuant to any 1368
arrangement, coordination, or direction by a candidate or a 1369
candidate's campaign committee, by an officer, agent, employee, 1370
or consultant of a candidate or a candidate's campaign 1371
committee, or by a former officer, former agent, former 1372
employee, or former consultant of a candidate or a candidate's 1373
campaign committee prior to the airing, broadcasting, or 1374
cablecasting of the communication. An electioneering 1375
communication is presumed to be a "coordinated electioneering 1376
communication" when it is either of the following: 1377

(i) Based on information about a candidate's plans, 1378
projects, or needs provided to the person making the 1379
disbursement by the candidate or the candidate's campaign 1380
committee, by an officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the 1381
candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, or by a former 1382
officer, former agent, former employee, or former consultant of 1383
the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, with a view 1384
toward having the communication made; 1385

(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, 1386
authorized to raise or expend funds on behalf of a candidate or 1387
the candidate's campaign committee, who is, or has been, an 1388
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1389
the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has been, 1390
receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the 1391
candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or from an 1392
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1393
the candidate's campaign committee. 1394

(b) An electioneering communication shall not be presumed 1395
to be a "coordinated electioneering communication" under 1396

division (A) (5) (a) (ii) of this section if the communication is 1397
made through any person who provides a service that does not 1398
affect the content of the communication, such as communications 1399
placed through the efforts of a media buyer, unless that person 1400
also affects the content of the communication. 1401

(6) "Disclosure date" means both of the following: 1402

(a) The first date during any calendar year by which a 1403
person makes disbursements for the direct costs of producing or 1404
airing electioneering communications aggregating in excess of 1405
ten thousand dollars; 1406

(b) The same day of the week of each remaining week in the 1407
same calendar year as the day of the week of the initial 1408
disclosure date established under division (A) (6) (a) of this 1409
section, if, during that remaining week, the person makes 1410
disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing 1411
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of one 1412
dollar. 1413

(7) (a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, 1414
cable, or satellite communication that refers to a clearly 1415
identified candidate and that is made during either of the 1416
following periods of time: 1417

(i) If the person becomes a candidate before the day of 1418
the primary election at which candidates will be nominated for 1419
election to that office, between the date that the person 1420
becomes a candidate and the thirtieth day prior to that primary 1421
election, and between the date of the primary election and the 1422
thirtieth day prior to the general election at which a candidate 1423
will be elected to that office; 1424

(ii) If the person becomes a candidate after the day of 1425

the primary election at which candidates were nominated for 1426
election to that office, between the date of the primary 1427
election and the thirtieth day prior to the general election at 1428
which a candidate will be elected to that office. 1429

(b) "Electioneering communication" does not include any of 1430
the following: 1431

(i) A communication that is publicly disseminated through 1432
a means of communication other than a broadcast, cable, or 1433
satellite television or radio station. For example, 1434
"electioneering communication" does not include communications 1435
appearing in print media, including a newspaper or magazine, 1436
handbill, brochure, bumper sticker, yard sign, poster, 1437
billboard, and other written materials, including mailings; 1438
communications over the internet, including electronic mail; or 1439
telephone communications. 1440

(ii) A communication that appears in a news story, 1441
commentary, public service announcement, bona fide news 1442
programming, or editorial distributed through the facilities of 1443
any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station, 1444
unless those facilities are owned or controlled by any political 1445
party, political committee, or candidate; 1446

(iii) A communication that constitutes an expenditure or 1447
an independent expenditure under section 3517.01 of the Revised 1448
Code; 1449

(iv) A communication that constitutes a candidate debate 1450
or forum or that solely promotes a candidate debate or forum and 1451
is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or 1452
forum. 1453

(8) "Filing date" ~~has the same meaning as in section~~ 1454

~~3517.109 of the Revised Code~~ means the last date on which a
candidacy petition may be filed for an office.

(9) "Immigration and Nationality Act" means the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 110 Stat. 309 (1996), 8 U.S.C.
1101 et seq., as amended.

(10) "Person" has the same meaning as in section 1.59 of
the Revised Code and includes any political organization
considered exempt from income taxation under section 527 of the
Internal Revenue Code.

(11) "Political committee" means any of the following:

(a) Any committee, club, association, or other group of
persons that receives contributions aggregating in excess of one
thousand dollars during a calendar year or that makes
expenditures aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars
during a calendar year;

(b) Any separate segregated fund;

(c) Any state, county, or local committee of a political
party that does any of the following:

(i) Receives contributions aggregating in excess of five
thousand dollars during a calendar year;

(ii) Makes payments that do not constitute contributions
or expenditures aggregating in excess of five thousand dollars
during a calendar year;

(iii) Makes contributions or expenditures aggregating in
excess of one thousand dollars during a calendar year.

(12) "Publicly distributed" means aired, broadcast,
cablecast, or otherwise disseminated for a fee.

(13) "Refers to a clearly identified candidate" means that 1482
the candidate's name, nickname, photograph, or drawing appears, 1483
or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent through 1484
an unambiguous reference to the person such as "the chief 1485
justice," "the governor," "member of the Ohio senate," "member 1486
of the Ohio house of representatives," "county auditor," 1487
"mayor," or "township trustee" or through an unambiguous 1488
reference to the person's status as a candidate. 1489

(B) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be 1490
considered to have made a disbursement if the person has entered 1491
into a contract to make the disbursement. 1492

(C) Any person intending to make a disbursement or 1493
disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing 1494
electioneering communications, prior to making the first 1495
disbursement for the direct costs of producing or airing an 1496
electioneering communication, shall file a notice with the 1497
office of the secretary of state that the person is intending to 1498
make such disbursements. 1499

(D) (1) Every person that makes a disbursement or 1500
disbursements for the direct costs of producing and airing 1501
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of ten 1502
thousand dollars during any calendar year shall file, within 1503
twenty-four hours of each disclosure date, a disclosure of 1504
electioneering communications statement containing the following 1505
information: 1506

(a) The full name and address of the person making the 1507
disbursement, of any person sharing or exercising direction or 1508
control over the activities of the person making the 1509
disbursement, and of the custodian of the books and accounts of 1510
the person making the disbursement; 1511

(b) The principal place of business of the person making 1512
the disbursement, if not an individual; 1513

(c) The amount of each disbursement of more than one 1514
dollar during the period covered by the statement and the 1515
identity of the person to whom the disbursement was made; 1516

(d) The nominations or elections to which the 1517
electioneering communications pertain and the names, if known, 1518
of the candidates identified or to be identified; 1519

(e) If the disbursements were paid out of a segregated 1520
bank account that consists of funds contributed solely by 1521
individuals who are United States citizens or nationals or 1522
lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in section 1523
101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act directly to 1524
the account for electioneering communications, the information 1525
specified in division (D)(2) of this section for all 1526
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1527
dollars or more to the segregated bank account and whose 1528
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1529
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1530
section during the period covered by the statement. Nothing in 1531
this division prohibits or shall be construed to prohibit the 1532
use of funds in such a segregated bank account for a purpose 1533
other than electioneering communications. 1534

(f) If the disbursements were paid out of funds not 1535
described in division (D)(1)(e) of this section, the information 1536
specified in division (D)(2) of this section for all 1537
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1538
dollars or more to the person making the disbursement and whose 1539
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1540
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1541

section during the period covered by the statement. 1542

(2) For each contributor for which information is required 1543
to be reported under division (D) (1) (e) or (f) of this section, 1544
all of the following shall be reported: 1545

(a) The month, day, and year that the contributor made the 1546
contribution or contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or 1547
more; 1548

(b) (i) The full name and address of the contributor, and, 1549
if the contributor is a political action committee, the 1550
registration number assigned to the political action committee 1551
under division (D) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1552

(ii) If the contributor is an individual, the name of the 1553
individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual is 1554
self-employed, the individual's occupation and the name of the 1555
individual's business, if any; 1556

(iii) If the contribution is transmitted pursuant to 1557
section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from 1558
the wages and salaries of two or more employees that exceed in 1559
the aggregate one hundred dollars during the period specified in 1560
division (D) (1) (e) or (f) of this section, as applicable, the 1561
full name of the employees' employer and the full name of the 1562
labor organization of which the employees are members, if any. 1563

(c) A description of the contribution, if other than 1564
money; 1565

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution. 1566

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1567
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1568
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C) (6) (b) 1569

and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 and division (F) (1) of section 1570
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 1571
statements by electronic means of transmission, a person shall 1572
file the disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1573
prescribed under divisions (D) (1) and (2) of this section by 1574
electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary 1575
of state. 1576

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1577
receives a disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1578
under this division, the secretary of state shall make available 1579
online to the public through the internet, as provided in 1580
division (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the 1581
contribution and disbursement information in that statement. 1582

If a filed disclosure of electioneering communications 1583
statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after its 1584
examination for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1585
(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the person 1586
shall file by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1587
the secretary of state any addendum, amendment, or other 1588
correction to the statement that provides the information 1589
necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required 1590
by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1591
statement. 1592

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1593
receives an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1594
disclosure of electioneering communications statement or an 1595
amended statement by electronic means of transmission under this 1596
division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1597
Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and 1598
disbursement information in the addendum, amendment, or other 1599

correction to the statement or amended statement available 1600
online to the public through the internet as provided in 1601
division (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 1602

(E) (1) Any person who makes a contribution for the purpose 1603
of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1604
electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1605
the person's full name and address to the recipient of the 1606
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1607

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution or 1608
contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or more for the 1609
purpose of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1610
electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1611
the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if 1612
the individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation and 1613
the name of the individual's business, if any, to the recipient 1614
of the contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1615

(F) In each electioneering communication, a statement 1616
shall appear or be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner 1617
that does both of the following: 1618

(1) Clearly indicates that the electioneering 1619
communication is not authorized by the candidate or the 1620
candidate's campaign committee; 1621

(2) Clearly identifies the person making the disbursement 1622
for the electioneering communication in accordance with section 1623
3517.20 of the Revised Code. 1624

(G) Any coordinated electioneering communication is an in- 1625
kind contribution, subject to the applicable contribution limits 1626
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, to the 1627
candidate by the person making disbursements to pay the direct 1628

costs of producing or airing the communication. 1629

(H) No person shall make, during the thirty days preceding 1630
a primary election or during the thirty days preceding a general 1631
election, any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that 1632
refers to a clearly identified candidate using any contributions 1633
received from a corporation or labor organization. 1634

Sec. 3517.152. (A) (1) There is hereby created the Ohio 1635
elections commission consisting of seven members. 1636

Not later than forty-five days after August 24, 1995, the 1637
speaker of the house of representatives and the leader in the 1638
senate of the political party of which the speaker is a member 1639
shall jointly submit to the governor a list of five persons who 1640
are affiliated with that political party. Not later than forty- 1641
five days after August 24, 1995, the two legislative leaders in 1642
the two houses of the general assembly of the major political 1643
party of which the speaker is not a member shall jointly submit 1644
to the governor a list of five persons who are affiliated with 1645
the major political party of which the speaker is not a member. 1646
Not later than fifteen days after receiving each list, the 1647
governor shall appoint three persons from each list to the 1648
commission. The governor shall appoint one person from each list 1649
to a term that ends on December 31, 1996, one person from each 1650
list to a term that ends on December 31, 1997, and one person 1651
from each list to a term that ends on December 31, 1998. 1652

Not later than thirty days after the governor appoints 1653
these six members, they shall, by a majority vote, appoint to 1654
the commission a seventh member, who shall not be affiliated 1655
with a political party. If the six members fail to appoint the 1656
seventh member within this thirty-day period, the chief justice 1657
of the supreme court, not later than thirty days after the end 1658

of the period during which the six members were required to 1659
appoint a member, shall appoint the seventh member, who shall 1660
not be affiliated with a political party. The seventh member 1661
shall be appointed to a term that ends on December 31, 2001. 1662
Terms of the initial members appointed under this division begin 1663
on January 1, 1996. 1664

(2) If a vacancy occurs in the position of the seventh 1665
member, who is not affiliated with a political party, the six 1666
remaining members by a majority vote shall appoint, not later 1667
than forty-five days after the date of the vacancy, the seventh 1668
member of the commission, who shall not be affiliated with a 1669
political party. If these members fail to appoint the seventh 1670
member within this forty-five-day period, the chief justice of 1671
the supreme court, within fifteen days after the end of this 1672
period, shall appoint the seventh member, who shall not be 1673
affiliated with a political party. If a vacancy occurs in any of 1674
the other six positions on the commission, the legislative 1675
leaders of the political party from whose list of persons the 1676
member being replaced was appointed shall submit to the 1677
governor, not later than thirty days after the date of the 1678
vacancy, a list of three persons who are affiliated with that 1679
political party. Not later than fifteen days after receiving the 1680
list, the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, 1681
shall appoint one person from the list to the commission. 1682

(3) At no time shall more than six members of the 1683
commission be affiliated with a political party, and, of these 1684
six members, not more than three shall be affiliated with the 1685
same political party. 1686

(4) In making appointments to the commission, the governor 1687
shall take into consideration the various geographic areas of 1688

this state and shall appoint members so that those areas are 1689
represented on the commission in a balanced manner, to the 1690
extent feasible. 1691

(5) Members of the commission shall be registered electors 1692
~~and, shall be of good moral character, and shall be attorneys in~~ 1693
good standing in the state. 1694

(B) Each member of the Ohio elections commission shall 1695
hold office from the date of the member's appointment until the 1696
end of the term for which the member was appointed. A member 1697
appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of 1698
the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall 1699
hold office for the remainder of that term. A member shall 1700
continue in office subsequent to the expiration date of the 1701
member's term until the member's successor takes office or until 1702
a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 1703
After the initial terms of office provided for in division (A) 1704
(1) of this section, terms of office shall be for five years. 1705
After the effective date of this amendment, the terms of office 1706
shall be for four years. Any member serving a five-year term as 1707
of the effective date of this amendment may finish the member's 1708
original term. 1709

(C) (1) A vacancy in the Ohio elections commission may be 1710
caused by death, resignation, or three absences from commission 1711
meetings in a calendar year if those absences are caused by 1712
reasons declared invalid by a vote of five members of the 1713
remaining members of the commission. 1714

(2) The governor shall remove a member of the commission 1715
appointed by the governor, and the six members of the commission 1716
appointed by the governor shall remove the seventh member of the 1717
commission appointed by those six members, after a hearing in 1718

accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, if the member 1719
violates any provision in division (F) of this section. 1720

(D) Each member of the Ohio elections commission while in 1721
the performance of the business of the commission shall be 1722
entitled to receive compensation at the rate of twenty-five 1723
thousand dollars per year. Members shall be reimbursed for 1724
expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of 1725
their duties. 1726

(E) No member of the Ohio elections commission shall serve 1727
more than ~~one two~~ full term unless the terms served are served- 1728
~~nonconsecutively.~~ 1729

(F) (1) No member of the Ohio elections commission shall do 1730
or be any of the following: 1731

(a) Hold, or be a candidate for, a public office; 1732

(b) Serve on a committee supporting or opposing a 1733
candidate or ballot question or issue; 1734

(c) Be an officer of the state central committee, a county 1735
central committee, or a district, city, township, or other 1736
committee of a political party or an officer of the executive 1737
committee of the state central committee, a county central 1738
committee, or a district, city, township, or other committee of 1739
a political party; 1740

(d) Be a legislative agent as defined in section 101.70 of 1741
the Revised Code or an executive agency lobbyist as defined in 1742
section 121.60 of the Revised Code; 1743

(e) Solicit or be involved in soliciting contributions on 1744
behalf of a candidate, campaign committee, political party, 1745
political action committee, or political contributing entity; 1746

(f) Be in the unclassified service under section 124.11 of 1747
the Revised Code; 1748

(g) Be a person or employee who is excluded from the 1749
definition of public employee pursuant to division (C) of 1750
section 4117.01 of the Revised Code. 1751

(2) No member or employee of the commission shall make a 1752
contribution to, or for the benefit of, a campaign committee or 1753
committee in support of or opposition to a ballot question or 1754
issue, a political party, a legislative campaign fund, a 1755
political action committee, or a political contributing entity. 1756

(G) (1) The members of the Ohio elections commission shall 1757
elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. At no time shall the 1758
chairperson and vice-chairperson be affiliated with the same 1759
political party. The chairperson shall serve in that capacity 1760
for one year and shall not serve as chairperson more than twice 1761
during a term as a member of the commission. No two successive 1762
chairpersons shall be affiliated with the same political party. 1763

(2) The commission shall meet at the call of the 1764
chairperson or upon the written request of a majority of the 1765
members. The meetings and hearings of the commission or a panel 1766
of the commission under sections 3517.153 to 3517.157 of the 1767
Revised Code are subject to section 121.22 of the Revised Code 1768
and division (G) (4) of this section. 1769

(3) The commission shall adopt rules for its procedures in 1770
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. In all 1771
instances in which they are not in conflict with these rules of 1772
procedure, the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure and Ohio Rules of 1773
Evidence apply in proceedings before the commission. Five of the 1774
seven members constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise provided 1775

in this section and in sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code, no action shall be taken without the concurrence of a majority of the members.

(4) Notwithstanding section 121.22 of the Revised Code, the commission may establish a policy that allows members to attend a meeting or hearing through electronic communication. The policy shall specify at least all of the following:

(a) The number of regular meetings at which each member shall be present in person, which may not be less than one-half of the regular meetings of the board annually;

(b) That more than one-half of the members attending the meeting or hearing shall be present in person at the place where the meeting or hearing is conducted;

(c) That all votes taken at the meeting are taken by roll call vote;

(d) That a member who intends to attend a meeting or hearing through electronic communication shall notify the chairperson of that intent not less than forty-eight hours before the meeting, except in the case of a declared emergency.

(5) Notwithstanding division (C) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, a member who attends a meeting or hearing through electronic communication is considered to be present at the meeting, is counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, and may vote at the meeting.

(H) (1) The Ohio elections commission shall employ the technical, professional, and clerical employees that are necessary for it to carry out its duties.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding section 109.02 of the Revised Code,

the commission shall employ a full-time attorney, and, as 1804
needed, one or more investigatory attorneys to conduct 1805
investigations for the commission or a panel of the commission. 1806
The commission may employ or contract for the services of 1807
additional attorneys, as needed. The full-time attorney shall do 1808
all of the following: 1809

(i) Serve as the commission's attorney in regard to all 1810
legal matters, including representing the commission at appeals 1811
from a final determination of the commission, except that the 1812
full-time attorney shall not perform the duties that an 1813
investigatory attorney is required or requested to perform or 1814
that another attorney the commission employs or contracts with 1815
for services is required or requested to perform, and shall not 1816
represent the commission in any legal proceeding in which the 1817
commission is a named party; 1818

(ii) At the request of the commission or a panel of the 1819
commission, be present at a hearing held under sections 3517.154 1820
to 3517.156 of the Revised Code to rule on the admissibility of 1821
evidence and to advise on the conduct of procedure; 1822

(iii) Perform other duties as required by rule of the 1823
commission. 1824

(b) An attorney employed by or under contract with the 1825
commission shall be licensed to practice law in this state. 1826

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (3) (b) 1827
of this section, at least five members of the commission shall 1828
agree on the employment of a person, a majority of the members 1829
shall agree on the discharge of an employee, and a person 1830
employed by the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the 1831
commission. 1832

(b) At least five of the seven members shall agree on the discharge of an investigatory attorney.

(I) There is hereby created in the state treasury the Ohio elections commission fund. All moneys credited to the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of paying expenses related to the operation of the Ohio elections commission.

Sec. 3517.153. (A) Upon the filing of a complaint with the Ohio elections commission, which shall be made by affidavit of any person, on personal knowledge, and subject to the penalties for perjury, or upon the filing of a complaint made by the secretary of state or an official at the board of elections, setting forth a failure to comply with or a violation of any provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, the commission shall proceed in accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. If a complaint that is not made by the secretary of state or an official at a board of elections fails to indicate that it is made on the personal knowledge of the complainant, the commission shall dismiss the complaint without prejudice with instructions on how to refile the complaint. If the complaint is subsequently refiled and still fails to indicate that it is made on the personal knowledge of the complainant, the commission shall dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

(B) The commission shall prescribe the form for complaints made under division (A) of this section. The secretary of state and boards of elections shall furnish the information that the commission requests. The commission or a member of the commission may administer oaths, and the commission may issue subpoenas to any person in the state compelling the attendance

of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, 1863
accounts, and reports. Section 101.42 of the Revised Code 1864
governs the issuance of subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon 1865
the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena or to be sworn or 1866
to answer as a witness, the commission may apply to the court of 1867
common pleas of Franklin county under section 2705.03 of the 1868
Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in accordance 1869
with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. 1870

(C) No prosecution shall commence for a violation of a 1871
provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 1872
3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code 1873
unless a complaint has been filed with the commission under this 1874
section and all proceedings of the commission or a panel of the 1875
commission, as appropriate, under sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 1876
of the Revised Code are completed. 1877

(D) The commission may recommend legislation and render 1878
advisory opinions concerning sections 3517.08, 3517.082, 1879
3517.092, 3517.102, 3517.105, 3517.1014, 3517.13, 3517.20 to 1880
3517.22, 3599.03, and 3599.031 of the Revised Code for persons 1881
over whose acts it has or may have jurisdiction. When the 1882
commission renders an advisory opinion relating to a specific 1883
set of circumstances involving any of those sections stating 1884
that there is no violation of a provision in those sections, the 1885
person to whom the opinion is directed or a person who is 1886
similarly situated may reasonably rely on the opinion and is 1887
immune from criminal prosecution and a civil action, including, 1888
without limitation, a civil action for removal from public 1889
office or employment, based on facts and circumstances covered 1890
by the opinion. 1891

(E) The commission shall establish a web site on which it 1892

shall post, at a minimum, all decisions and advisory opinions 1893
issued by the commission and copies of each election law as it 1894
is amended by the general assembly. The commission shall update 1895
the web site regularly to reflect any changes to those decisions 1896
and advisory opinions and any new decisions and advisory 1897
opinions. 1898

Sec. 3517.154. (A) (1) The full-time attorney for the Ohio 1899
elections commission shall review each complaint filed with the 1900
commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code, shall 1901
determine the nature of the complaint, and, unless division (A) 1902
(2) (a) of this section requires that the complaint receive an 1903
automatic expedited hearing, shall make a recommendation to the 1904
commission for its disposition, in accordance with this section. 1905
The attorney shall make the determination and the 1906
recommendation, if required, not later than one business day 1907
after the complaint is filed. 1908

(2) (a) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets 1909
forth a violation of division (B) of section 3517.21 or division 1910
(B) of section 3517.22 of the Revised Code and that the 1911
complaint is filed during one of the periods of time specified 1912
in division (B) (1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the 1913
complaint shall receive an automatic expedited hearing under 1914
section 3517.156 of the Revised Code. 1915

(b) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets 1916
forth a failure to comply with or a violation of division (G), 1917
(I), (J), (O), (P), or (Q) of section 3517.13, division (A) of 1918
section 3517.21, or division (A) of section 3517.22 of the 1919
Revised Code and that the complaint is filed during one of the 1920
periods of time specified in division (B) (1) of section 3517.156 1921
of the Revised Code, the attorney shall recommend to the 1922

commission that the complaint receive an expedited hearing under 1923
section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, and the complaint shall 1924
receive such a hearing. 1925

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets 1926
forth a failure to comply with or a violation of a section of 1927
the Revised Code over which the commission has jurisdiction to 1928
hear complaints other than the sections described in divisions 1929
(A) (2) (a) and (b) of this section, and unless the attorney makes 1930
a determination as provided for in division (A) (3) of this 1931
section, the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the 1932
complaint be submitted to the commission under section 3517.155 1933
of the Revised Code. After the attorney makes that 1934
recommendation, the attorney shall notify all parties to the 1935
complaint of the attorney's recommendation. 1936

(3) (a) If a complaint sets forth a failure to comply with 1937
or a violation of a section of the Revised Code over which the 1938
commission has jurisdiction to hear complaints other than the 1939
sections described in divisions (A) (2) (a) and (b) of this 1940
section and if the complaint is filed during one of the periods 1941
of time specified in division (B) (1) of section 3517.156 of the 1942
Revised Code, the attorney may determine that the complaint 1943
should receive an expedited hearing under that section. The 1944
attorney shall make that determination by considering one or 1945
more of the following: 1946

(i) The number of prior failures to comply with or 1947
violations of Title XXXV of the Revised Code that the person or 1948
entity against whom the complaint has been brought has committed 1949
and any prior penalties the commission has imposed on the person 1950
or entity; 1951

(ii) If the complaint involves a statement required to be 1952

filed under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, 1953
or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, ~~3517.109~~, 3517.1011, 1954
3517.1012, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code or an addendum 1955
required to be filed under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code 1956
that is filed late, how late the filing is and how much time has 1957
elapsed between the deadline for filing the statement or 1958
addendum and the filing of the complaint; 1959

(iii) If the complaint involves contributions and 1960
expenditures, contributions and disbursements, deposits and 1961
disbursements, gifts and disbursements, or donations and 1962
disbursements required to be reported under section 3517.10, 1963
division (E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 1964
3517.108, ~~3517.109~~, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 1965
3517.1014 of the Revised Code that are either not reported or 1966
reported late, the number of contributions and expenditures, 1967
contributions and disbursements, deposits and disbursements, 1968
gifts and disbursements, or donations and disbursements not 1969
reported or how late they were reported; 1970

(iv) If the complaint involves contributions required to 1971
be reported by a campaign committee under section 3517.10, 1972
division (E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 1973
or 3517.108, ~~or 3517.109~~ of the Revised Code that are not 1974
reported, whether any of the contributors of the contributions 1975
not reported have a personal or professional relationship with 1976
the campaign committee's candidate; 1977

(v) If the complaint involves a statement required to be 1978
filed under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, 1979
or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, ~~3517.109~~, 3517.1011, 1980
3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code that is 1981
incomplete, the degree to which it is incomplete; 1982

(vi) If the complaint involves the receipt of 1983
contributions in violation of section 3599.03 of the Revised 1984
Code, the dollar amount and number of contributions received in 1985
violation of that section; 1986

(vii) If the complaint involves a failure to make the 1987
identification or a misstatement of the identification required 1988
under section 3517.105 or 3517.20 of the Revised Code, whether 1989
the failure or misstatement was purposely made; 1990

(viii) If the complaint sets forth a failure to comply 1991
with or a violation of a section of the Revised Code described 1992
in division (A) (2) (c) of this section, whether the person or 1993
entity against whom the complaint has been made has committed 1994
more than one such failure or violation within a reasonable 1995
amount of time, or whether the cumulative nature of the failures 1996
or violations indicates a systematic disregard for the law. 1997

(b) Prior to making a determination under division (A) (3) 1998
(a) of this section that the complaint should receive an 1999
expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, 2000
the attorney shall take into consideration the number of panels 2001
of the commission that have cases pending before them and the 2002
number of cases pending before the panels and shall not make a 2003
determination that will place an undue burden on a panel of the 2004
commission. 2005

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint should 2006
receive an expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the 2007
Revised Code, the attorney shall recommend to the commission 2008
that the complaint receive an expedited hearing, and, if a 2009
majority of the members of the commission agrees with the 2010
recommendation, the complaint shall receive an expedited hearing 2011
under that section. 2012

(4) The attorney may join two or more complaints if the attorney determines that the allegations in each complaint are of the same or similar character, are based on the same act or failure to act, or are based on two or more acts or failures to act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If one complaint contains two or more allegations, the attorney may separate the allegations if they are not of the same or similar character, if they are not based on the same act or failure to act, or if they are not based on two or more acts or failures to act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If the attorney separates the allegations in a complaint, the attorney may make separate recommendations under division (A) (2) or (3) of this section for each allegation.

(B) Whenever a person or other entity files a complaint with the commission setting forth a failure to comply with or a violation of a section of the Revised Code as described in division (A) (2) (c) of this section and the complaint is filed during one of the periods of time specified in division (B) (1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the person or entity may request an expedited hearing under that section at the time the complaint is filed. The attorney for the commission shall inform the members of the commission of that request at the time the attorney makes a recommendation under division (A) of this section. The commission may grant the request for an expedited hearing under this division if it determines that an expedited hearing is practicable.

Sec. 3517.158. (A) If a campaign committee or political action committee desires to terminate itself under division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, but has a balance on hand and no outstanding obligations, the committee may file a statement indicating its desire to be terminated with the Ohio

elections commission. The commission may only declare the 2044
committee terminated if the person responsible for the operation 2045
of the campaign committee or political action committee attests, 2046
by an affidavit under penalty of election falsification, that 2047
the person has used the person's best efforts to correct or 2048
identify the errors preventing the person from disposing of any 2049
excess funds or aggregate contributions, or otherwise winding up 2050
the committee's affairs and reducing the balance on hand to 2051
zero. If the balance is greater than two thousand dollars, the 2052
committee may not be terminated unless a certified public 2053
accountant verifies that, after reasonable efforts, 2054
reconciliation is not possible. 2055

(B) The commission may, of its own accord, declare a 2056
committee terminated if, after a reasonable effort at searching, 2057
the commission determines that the only person responsible for 2058
the operation of the campaign committee or political action 2059
committee has died or is unavailable for another reason. 2060

(C) If a campaign committee or political action committee 2061
desires to be declared in compliance with the applicable 2062
provisions of sections 3517.08 to 3517.13 of the Revised Code so 2063
that it may continue in operation, it shall file a statement to 2064
that effect, on a form prescribed under this section and made 2065
under penalty of election falsification, with the Ohio elections 2066
commission. If the committee is in compliance, and the exact 2067
balance on hand can be ascertained, the commission shall declare 2068
the committee in compliance, and shall declare a new balance on 2069
hand for the committee. If the exact balance on hand cannot be 2070
ascertained, the person responsible for the operation of the 2071
committee shall submit an affidavit, under penalty of election 2072
falsification, attesting that the person has used the person's 2073
best efforts to correct or identify the errors preventing a 2074

balance on hand from being ascertained, and the campaign 2075
committee or political action committee shall be declared in 2076
compliance and permitted to continue in existence as long as one 2077
of the following conditions is met: 2078

(1) If the balance is or appears to be two thousand 2079
dollars or less, a reasonably approximate balance can be 2080
determined; 2081

(2) If the balance is more than or appears to be more than 2082
two thousand dollars, a certified public accountant verifies 2083
that the exact balance cannot be determined, but a reasonably 2084
approximate balance can be determined. 2085

Sec. 3517.992. This section establishes penalties only 2086
with respect to acts or failures to act that occur on and after 2087
August 24, 1995. 2088

(A) (1) A candidate whose campaign committee violates 2089
division (A), (B), (C), (D), or (V) of section 3517.13 of the 2090
Revised Code, or a treasurer of a campaign committee who 2091
violates any of those divisions, shall be fined not more than 2092
one hundred dollars for each day of violation. 2093

(2) Whoever violates division (E) or (X) (5) of section 2094
3517.13 or division (E) (1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 2095
Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each 2096
day of violation. 2097

(B) An entity that violates division (G) (1) of section 2098
3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one 2099
hundred dollars for each day of violation. 2100

(C) Whoever violates division (G) (2) of section 3517.101, 2101
division (G) of section 3517.13, or division (E) (2) or (3) of 2102
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more 2103

than ten thousand dollars or, if the offender is a person who 2104
was nominated or elected to public office, shall forfeit the 2105
nomination or the office to which the offender was elected, or 2106
both. 2107

(D) Whoever violates division (F) of section 3517.13 of 2108
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than three times the 2109
amount contributed. 2110

(E) Whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.13 of 2111
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred 2112
dollars. 2113

(F) Whoever violates division (O), (P), or (Q) of section 2114
3517.13 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the 2115
first degree. 2116

(G) A state or county committee of a political party that 2117
violates division (B) (1) of section 3517.18 of the Revised Code 2118
as that section existed before its repeal by H.B. 166 of the 2119
133rd general assembly shall be fined not more than twice the 2120
amount of the improper expenditure. 2121

(H) An entity that violates division (H) of section 2122
3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than twice 2123
the amount of the improper expenditure or use. 2124

(I) (1) Any individual who violates division (B) (1) of 2125
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code and knows that the 2126
contribution the individual makes violates that division shall 2127
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed 2128
in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2129

(2) Any political action committee that violates division 2130
(B) (2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2131
amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of 2132

the amount permitted by that division. 2133

(3) Any campaign committee that violates division (B) (3) 2134
or (5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2135
amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of 2136
the amount permitted by that division. 2137

(4) (a) Any legislative campaign fund that violates 2138
division (B) (6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2139
fined an amount equal to three times the amount transferred or 2140
contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division, 2141
as applicable. 2142

(b) Any state political party, county political party, or 2143
state candidate fund of a state political party or county 2144
political party that violates division (B) (6) of section 2145
3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2146
three times the amount transferred or contributed in excess of 2147
the amount permitted by that division, as applicable. 2148

(c) Any political contributing entity that violates 2149
division (B) (7) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2150
fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed in 2151
excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2152

(5) Any political party that violates division (B) (4) of 2153
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2154
equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the 2155
amount permitted by that division. 2156

(6) Notwithstanding divisions (I) (1), (2), (3), (4), and 2157
(5) of this section, no violation of division (B) of section 2158
3517.102 of the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state 2159
shall not refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the 2160
amount transferred or contributed in excess of the amount 2161

permitted by that division meets either of the following 2162
conditions: 2163

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days 2164
after it is accepted. 2165

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth 2166
business day after notification to the recipient of the excess 2167
transfer or contribution by the board of elections or the 2168
secretary of state that a transfer or contribution in excess of 2169
the permitted amount has been received. 2170

(J) (1) Any campaign committee that violates division (C) 2171
(1), (2), (3), or (6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 2172
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2173
accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2174

(2) (a) Any county political party that violates division 2175
(C) (4) (a) (ii) or (iii) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 2176
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2177
accepted. 2178

(b) Any county political party that violates division (C) 2179
(4) (a) (i) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2180
an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 2181
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2182
division. 2183

(c) Any state political party that violates division (C) 2184
(4) (b) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2185
amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 2186
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2187
division. 2188

(3) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2189
(C) (5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2190

amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess of the 2191
amount permitted by that division. 2192

(4) Any political action committee or political 2193
contributing entity that violates division (C)(7) of section 2194
3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2195
three times the amount accepted in excess of the amount 2196
permitted by that division. 2197

(5) Notwithstanding divisions (J)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of 2198
this section, no violation of division (C) of section 3517.102 2199
of the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state shall not 2200
refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the amount 2201
transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted to 2202
be accepted by that division meets either of the following 2203
conditions: 2204

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days 2205
after its acceptance. 2206

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth 2207
business day after notification to the recipient of the excess 2208
transfer or contribution by the board of elections or the 2209
secretary of state that a transfer or contribution in excess of 2210
the permitted amount has been received. 2211

(K)(1) Any legislative campaign fund that violates 2212
division (F)(1) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2213
fined twenty-five dollars for each day of violation. 2214

(2) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2215
(F)(2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall give to the 2216
treasurer of state for deposit into the state treasury to the 2217
credit of the Ohio elections commission fund all excess 2218
contributions not disposed of as required by division (E) of 2219

section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. 2220

(L) Whoever violates section 3517.105 of the Revised Code 2221
shall be fined one thousand dollars. 2222

(M) (1) Whoever solicits a contribution in violation of 2223
section 3517.092 or violates division (B) of section 3517.09 of 2224
the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 2225

(2) Whoever knowingly accepts a contribution in violation 2226
of division (B) or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code 2227
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2228
accepted in violation of either of those divisions and shall 2229
return to the contributor any amount so accepted. Whoever 2230
unknowingly accepts a contribution in violation of division (B) 2231
or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code shall return to 2232
the contributor any amount so accepted. 2233

(N) Whoever violates division (S) of section 3517.13 of 2234
the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times 2235
the amount of funds transferred or three times the value of the 2236
assets transferred in violation of that division. 2237

(O) Any campaign committee that accepts a contribution or 2238
contributions in violation of section 3517.108 of the Revised 2239
Code, uses a contribution in violation of that section, or fails 2240
to dispose of excess contributions in violation of that section 2241
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2242
accepted, used, or kept in violation of that section. 2243

(P) Any political party, state candidate fund, legislative 2244
candidate fund, or campaign committee that violates division (T) 2245
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2246
equal to three times the amount contributed or accepted in 2247
violation of that section. 2248

(Q) A treasurer of a committee or another person who 2249
violates division (U) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code 2250
shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars. 2251

(R) Whoever violates division (I) or (J) of section 2252
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one 2253
thousand dollars. Whenever a person is found guilty of violating 2254
division (I) or (J) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, the 2255
contract awarded in violation of either of those divisions shall 2256
be rescinded if its terms have not yet been performed. 2257

(S) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2258
treasurer of a campaign committee who violates section 3517.081 2259
of the Revised Code, and a candidate whose campaign committee 2260
violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or another 2261
person who violates division (C) of section 3517.10 of the 2262
Revised Code, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2263

(T) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2264
treasurer of a committee who violates division (B) of section 2265
3517.09 of the Revised Code, or a candidate whose campaign 2266
committee violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or 2267
another person who violates division (C) of section 3517.09 of 2268
the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand 2269
dollars. 2270

(U) Whoever violates section 3517.20 of the Revised Code 2271
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2272

(V) Whoever violates section 3517.21 or 3517.22 of the 2273
Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or 2274
fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. 2275

(W) A campaign committee that is required to file a 2276
declaration of no limits under division (D) (2) of section 2277

3517.103 of the Revised Code that, before filing that 2278
declaration, accepts a contribution or contributions that exceed 2279
the limitations prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised 2280
Code, shall return that contribution or those contributions to 2281
the contributor. 2282

~~(X) Any campaign committee that fails to file the 2283
declaration of filing day finances required by division (F) of 2284
section 3517.109 of the Revised Code shall be fined twenty five 2285
dollars for each day of violation. 2286~~

~~(Y) (1) Any campaign committee that fails to dispose of 2287
excess funds or excess aggregate contributions under division 2288
(B) of section 3517.109 of the Revised Code in the manner 2289
required by division (C) of that section shall give to the 2290
treasurer of state for deposit into the Ohio elections 2291
commission fund created under division (I) of section 3517.152 2292
of the Revised Code all funds not disposed of pursuant to that 2293
division. 2294~~

~~(2) Any treasurer of a transition fund that fails to 2295
dispose of assets remaining in the transition fund as required 2296
under division (H) (1) or (2) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 2297
Code shall give to the treasurer of state for deposit into the 2298
Ohio elections commission fund all assets not disposed of 2299
pursuant to that division. 2300~~

~~(Z) (Y) Any individual, campaign committee, political 2301
action committee, political contributing entity, legislative 2302
campaign fund, political party, treasurer of a transition fund, 2303
or other entity that violates any provision of sections 3517.09 2304
to 3517.12 of the Revised Code for which no penalty is provided 2305
for under any other division of this section shall be fined not 2306
more than one thousand dollars. 2307~~

~~(AA) (1)~~ (Z) (1) Whoever knowingly violates division (W) (1) 2308
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2309
equal to three times the amount contributed, expended, or 2310
promised in violation of that division or ten thousand dollars, 2311
whichever amount is greater. 2312

(2) Whoever knowingly violates division (W) (2) of section 2313
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2314
three times the amount solicited or accepted in violation of 2315
that division or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is 2316
greater. 2317

~~(BB)~~ (AA) Whoever knowingly violates division (C) or (D) 2318
of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more 2319
than ten thousand dollars plus not more than one thousand 2320
dollars for each day of violation. 2321

~~(CC) (1)~~ (BB) (1) Subject to division ~~(CC) (2)~~ (BB) (2) of 2322
this section, whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.1011 2323
of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount up to three times 2324
the amount disbursed for the direct costs of airing the 2325
communication made in violation of that division. 2326

(2) Whoever has been ordered by the Ohio elections 2327
commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction to cease 2328
making communications in violation of division (H) of section 2329
3517.1011 of the Revised Code who again violates that division 2330
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2331
disbursed for the direct costs of airing the communication made 2332
in violation of that division. 2333

~~(DD) (1)~~ (CC) (1) Any corporation or labor organization that 2334
violates division (X) (3) (a) of section 3517.13 of the Revised 2335
Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount 2336

given in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2337

(2) Any state or county political party that violates 2338
division (X) (3) (b) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall 2339
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in 2340
excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2341

~~(EE) (1)~~ (DD) (1) Any campaign committee or person who 2342
violates division (C) (1) (b) or (c) of section 3517.1014 of the 2343
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2344
amount donated in excess of the amount permitted by that 2345
division. 2346

(2) Any officeholder or treasurer of a transition fund who 2347
violates division (C) (3) (a) or (b) of section 3517.1014 of the 2348
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2349
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2350
division. 2351

Section 2. That existing sections 3517.081, 3517.10, 2352
3517.102, 3517.1011, 3517.152, 3517.153, 3517.154, and 3517.992 2353
of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 2354

Section 3. That section 3517.109 of the Revised Code is 2355
hereby repealed. 2356

Section 4. Section 3517.10 of the Revised Code is 2357
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 2358
by both H.B. 166 and S.B. 107 of the 133rd General Assembly. The 2359
General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) 2360
of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be 2361
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, 2362
finds that the composite is the resulting version of the section 2363
in effect prior to the effective date of the section as 2364
presented in this act. 2365