

Sub. H. B. No. 96  
As Passed by the Senate  
ELCCD3, SOSCD12

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

Delete lines 69294 through 69599 (remove R.C. 3517.01) and insert:

**"Sec. 3517.01.** (A) (1) A political party within the meaning  
of Title XXXV of the Revised Code is any group of voters that  
meets either of the following requirements:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, at the  
most recent regular state election, the group polled for its  
candidate for governor in the state or nominees for presidential  
electors at least three per cent of the entire vote cast for  
that office. A group that meets the requirements of this  
division remains a political party for a period of four years  
after meeting those requirements.

(b) The group filed with the secretary of state,  
subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of division  
(A) (1) (a) of this section, a party formation petition that meets  
all of the following requirements:

(i) The petition is signed by qualified electors equal in  
number to at least one per cent of the total vote for governor  
or nominees for presidential electors at the most recent

election for such office.

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(ii) The petition is signed by not fewer than five hundred qualified electors from each of at least a minimum of one-half of the congressional districts in this state. If an odd number of congressional districts exists in this state, the number of districts that results from dividing the number of congressional districts by two shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

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(iii) The petition declares the petitioners' intention of organizing a political party, the name of which shall be stated in the declaration, and of participating in the succeeding general election, held in even-numbered years, that occurs more than one hundred twenty-five days after the date of filing.

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(iv) The petition designates a committee of not less than three nor more than five individuals of the petitioners, who shall represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition. Notice of all matters or proceedings pertaining to the petition may be served on the committee, or any of them, either personally or by registered mail, or by leaving such notice at the usual place of residence of each of them.

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(2) No such group of electors shall assume a name or designation that is similar, in the opinion of the secretary of state, to that of an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.

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(B) A campaign committee shall be legally liable for any debts, contracts, or expenditures incurred or executed in its name.

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(C) Notwithstanding the definitions found in section 3501.01 of the Revised Code, as used in this section and sections 3517.08 to ~~3517.14, 3517.99, and 3517.992~~ 3517.991 of

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the Revised Code: 48

(1) "Campaign committee" means a candidate or a 49  
combination of two or more persons authorized by a candidate 50  
under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code to receive 51  
contributions and make expenditures. 52

(2) "Campaign treasurer" means an individual appointed by 53  
a candidate under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code. 54

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in division (H) of 55  
section 3501.01 of the Revised Code and also includes any person 56  
who, at any time before or after an election, receives 57  
contributions or makes expenditures or other use of 58  
contributions, has given consent for another to receive 59  
contributions or make expenditures or other use of 60  
contributions, or appoints a campaign treasurer, for the purpose 61  
of bringing about the person's nomination or election to public 62  
office. When two persons jointly seek the offices of governor 63  
and lieutenant governor, "candidate" means the pair of 64  
candidates jointly. "Candidate" does not include candidates for 65  
election to the offices of member of a county or state central 66  
committee, presidential elector, and delegate to a national 67  
convention or conference of a political party. 68

(4) "Continuing association" means an association, other 69  
than a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign 70  
fund, political contributing entity, or labor organization, that 71  
is intended to be a permanent organization that has a primary 72  
purpose other than supporting or opposing specific candidates, 73  
political parties, or ballot issues, and that functions on a 74  
regular basis throughout the year. "Continuing association" 75  
includes organizations that are determined to be not organized 76  
for profit under subsection 501 and that are described in 77

subsection 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. 78  
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(5) "Contribution" means a loan, gift, deposit, 80  
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 81  
transfer of funds or anything of value, including a transfer of 82  
funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 83  
estate, and the payment by any person other than the person to 84  
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 85  
another person, which contribution is made, received, or used 86  
for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. Any 87  
loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, 88  
advance, payment, or transfer of funds or of anything of value, 89  
including a transfer of funds from an inter vivos or 90  
testamentary trust or decedent's estate, and the payment by any 91  
campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 92  
campaign fund, political party, political contributing entity, 93  
or person other than the person to whom the services are 94  
rendered for the personal services of another person, that is 95  
made, received, or used by a state or county political party, 96  
other than the moneys an entity may receive under sections 97  
3517.101, 3517.1012, and 3517.1013 of the Revised Code, shall be 98  
considered to be a "contribution" for the purpose of section 99  
3517.10 of the Revised Code and shall be included on a statement 100  
of contributions filed under that section. 101

"Contribution" does not include any of the following: 102

(a) Services provided without compensation by individuals 103  
volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a 104  
person; 105

(b) Ordinary home hospitality; 106

- (c) The personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that  
volunteer campaign worker; 107  
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- (d) Any gift given to an entity pursuant to section  
3517.101 of the Revised Code; 109  
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- (e) Any contribution as defined in section 3517.1011 of  
the Revised Code that is made, received, or used to pay the  
direct costs of producing or airing an electioneering  
communication; 111  
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- (f) Any gift given to a state or county political party  
for the party's restricted fund under division (A) (2) of section  
3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 115  
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- (g) Any gift given to a state political party for deposit  
in a Levin account pursuant to section 3517.1013 of the Revised  
Code. As used in this division, "Levin account" has the same  
meaning as in that section. 118  
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- (h) Any donation given to a transition fund under section  
3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 122  
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- (6) "Expenditure" means the disbursement or use of a  
contribution for the purpose of influencing the results of an  
election or of making a charitable donation under division (G)  
of section 3517.08 of the Revised Code. Any disbursement or use  
of a contribution by a state or county political party is an  
expenditure and shall be considered either to be made for the  
purpose of influencing the results of an election or to be made  
as a charitable donation under division (G) of section 3517.08  
of the Revised Code and shall be reported on a statement of  
expenditures filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code.  
During the thirty days preceding a primary or general election,  
any disbursement to pay the direct costs of producing or airing 124  
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a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that refers to a  
clearly identified candidate shall be considered to be made for  
the purpose of influencing the results of that election and  
shall be reported as an expenditure or as an independent  
expenditure under section 3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised  
Code, as applicable, except that the information required to be  
reported regarding contributors for those expenditures or  
independent expenditures shall be the same as the information  
required to be reported under divisions (D) (1) and (2) of  
section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code.

As used in this division, "broadcast, cable, or satellite  
communication" and "refers to a clearly identified candidate"  
have the same meanings as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised  
Code.

(7) "Personal expenses" includes, but is not limited to,  
ordinary expenses for accommodations, clothing, food, personal  
motor vehicle or airplane, and home telephone.

(8) "Political action committee" means a combination of  
two or more persons, the primary or major purpose of which is to  
support or oppose any candidate, political party, or issue, or  
to influence the result of any election through express  
advocacy, and that is not a political party, a campaign  
committee, a political contributing entity, or a legislative  
campaign fund. "Political action committee" does not include  
either of the following:

(a) A continuing association that makes disbursements for  
the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering  
communications and that does not engage in express advocacy;

(b) A political club that is formed primarily for social

purposes and that consists of one hundred members or less, has 165  
officers and periodic meetings, has less than two thousand five 166  
hundred dollars in its treasury at all times, and makes an 167  
aggregate total contribution of one thousand dollars or less per 168  
calendar year. 169

(9) "Public office" means any state, county, municipal, 170  
township, or district office, except an office of a political 171  
party, that is filled by an election and the offices of United 172  
States senator and representative. 173

(10) "Anything of value" has the same meaning as in 174  
section 1.03 of the Revised Code. 175

(11) "Beneficiary of a campaign fund" means a candidate, a 176  
public official or employee for whose benefit a campaign fund 177  
exists, and any other person who has ever been a candidate or 178  
public official or employee and for whose benefit a campaign 179  
fund exists. 180

(12) "Campaign fund" means money or other property, 181  
including contributions. 182

(13) "Public official or employee" has the same meaning as 183  
in section 102.01 of the Revised Code. 184

(14) "Caucus" means all of the members of the house of 185  
representatives or all of the members of the senate of the 186  
general assembly who are members of the same political party. 187

(15) "Legislative campaign fund" means a fund that is 188  
established as an auxiliary of a state political party and 189  
associated with one of the houses of the general assembly. 190

(16) "In-kind contribution" means anything of value other 191  
than money that is used to influence the results of an election 192

or is transferred to or used in support of or in opposition to a 193  
candidate, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 194  
political party, political action committee, or political 195  
contributing entity and that is made with the consent of, in 196  
coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the 197  
request or suggestion of the benefited candidate, committee, 198  
fund, party, or entity. The financing of the dissemination, 199  
distribution, or republication, in whole or part, of any 200  
broadcast or of any written, graphic, or other form of campaign 201  
materials prepared by the candidate, the candidate's campaign 202  
committee, or their authorized agents is an in-kind contribution 203  
to the candidate and an expenditure by the candidate. 204

(17) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a 205  
person advocating the election or defeat of an identified 206  
candidate or candidates, that is not made with the consent of, 207  
in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the 208  
request or suggestion of any candidate or candidates or of the 209  
campaign committee or agent of the candidate or candidates. As 210  
used in division (C)(17) of this section: 211

(a) "Person" means an individual, partnership, 212  
unincorporated business organization or association, political 213  
action committee, political contributing entity, separate 214  
segregated fund, association, or other organization or group of 215  
persons, but not a labor organization or a corporation unless 216  
the labor organization or corporation is a political 217  
contributing entity. 218

(b) "Advocating" means any communication containing a 219  
message advocating election or defeat. 220

(c) "Identified candidate" means that the name of the 221  
candidate appears, a photograph or drawing of the candidate 222



appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent 223  
by unambiguous reference. 224

(d) "Made in coordination, cooperation, or consultation 225  
with, or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or the 226  
campaign committee or agent of the candidate" means made 227  
pursuant to any arrangement, coordination, or direction by the 228  
candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, or the 229  
candidate's agent prior to the publication, distribution, 230  
display, or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure is 231  
presumed to be so made when it is any of the following: 232

(i) Based on information about the candidate's plans, 233  
projects, or needs provided to the person making the expenditure 234  
by the candidate, or by the candidate's campaign committee or 235  
agent, with a view toward having an expenditure made; 236

(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, 237  
authorized to raise or expend funds, who is, or has been, an 238  
officer of the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has 239  
been, receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from 240  
the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or agent; 241

(iii) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of 242  
section 3517.105 of the Revised Code, made by a political party 243  
in support of a candidate, unless the expenditure is made by a 244  
political party to conduct voter registration or voter education 245  
efforts. 246

(e) "Agent" means any person who has actual oral or 247  
written authority, either express or implied, to make or to 248  
authorize the making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate, 249  
or means any person who has been placed in a position with the 250  
candidate's campaign committee or organization such that it 251

would reasonably appear that in the ordinary course of campaign- 252  
related activities the person may authorize expenditures. 253

(18) "Labor organization" means a labor union; an employee 254  
organization; a federation of labor unions, groups, locals, or 255  
other employee organizations; an auxiliary of a labor union, 256  
employee organization, or federation of labor unions, groups, 257  
locals, or other employee organizations; or any other bona fide 258  
organization in which employees participate and that exists for 259  
the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers 260  
concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours, and other 261  
terms and conditions of employment. 262

(19) "Separate segregated fund" means a separate 263  
segregated fund established pursuant to the Federal Election 264  
Campaign Act. 265

(20) "Federal Election Campaign Act" means the "Federal 266  
Election Campaign Act of 1971," 86 Stat. 11, 2 U.S.C.A. 431, et 267  
seq., as amended. 268

(21) "Restricted fund" means the fund a state or county 269  
political party must establish under division (A) (1) of section 270  
3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 271

(22) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning 272  
as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 273

(23) "Express advocacy" means a communication that 274  
contains express words advocating the nomination, election, or 275  
defeat of a candidate or that contains express words advocating 276  
the adoption or defeat of a question or issue, as determined by 277  
a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 278

(24) "Political committee" has the same meaning as in 279

section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 280

(25) "Political contributing entity" means any entity, 281  
including a corporation or labor organization, that may lawfully 282  
make contributions and expenditures and that is not an 283  
individual or a political action committee, continuing 284  
association, campaign committee, political party, legislative 285  
campaign fund, designated state campaign committee, or state 286  
candidate fund. For purposes of this division, "lawfully" means 287  
not prohibited by any section of the Revised Code, or authorized 288  
by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 289

(26) "Internet identifier of record" has the same meaning 290  
as in section 9.312 of the Revised Code. " 291

In line 69620, reinsert "continuing association," 292

In line 69621, reinsert the stricken comma 293

In line 69624, reinsert "continuing" 294

In line 69625, reinsert "association's,"; reinsert the second 295  
stricken comma 296

Delete lines 69744 through 71617 (remove R.C. 3517.10, 3517.102, 297  
3517.105, 3517.106, and 3517.107) and insert: 298

**"Sec. 3517.102.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in 299  
section 3517.103 of the Revised Code, as used in this section 300  
and sections 3517.103 and 3517.104 of the Revised Code: 301

(1) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in section 3517.01 302  
of the Revised Code but includes only candidates for the offices 303  
of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of 304  
state, treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state 305  
board of education, member of the general assembly, chief 306

justice of the supreme court, and justice of the supreme court. 307

(2) "Statewide candidate" or "any one statewide candidate" 308  
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 309  
lieutenant governor or a candidate for the office of secretary 310  
of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state, attorney 311  
general, member of the state board of education, chief justice 312  
of the supreme court, or justice of the supreme court. 313

(3) "Senate candidate" means a candidate for the office of 314  
state senator. 315

(4) "House candidate" means a candidate for the office of 316  
state representative. 317

(5) (a) "Primary election period" for a candidate begins on 318  
the beginning date of the candidate's pre-filing period 319  
specified in division (A) (9) of section 3517.109 of the Revised 320  
Code and ends on the day of the primary election. 321

(b) In regard to any candidate, the "general election 322  
period" begins on the day after the primary election immediately 323  
preceding the general election at which the candidate seeks an 324  
office specified in division (A) (1) of this section and ends on 325  
the thirty-first day of December following that general 326  
election. 327

(6) "State candidate fund" means the state candidate fund 328  
established by a state or county political party under division 329  
(D) (3) (c) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 330

(7) "Postgeneral election statement" means the statement 331  
filed under division (A) (2) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 332  
Code by the campaign committee of a candidate after the general 333  
election in which the candidate ran for office or filed by 334

legislative campaign fund after the general election in an even- 335  
numbered year. 336

(8) "Contribution" means any contribution that is required 337  
to be reported in the statement of contributions under section 338  
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 339

(9) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (9) (b) 340  
of this section, "designated state campaign committee" means: 341

(i) In the case of contributions to or from a state 342  
political party, a campaign committee of a statewide candidate, 343  
statewide officeholder, senate candidate, house candidate, or 344  
member of the general assembly. 345

(ii) In the case of contributions to or from a county 346  
political party, a campaign committee of a senate candidate or 347  
house candidate whose candidacy is to be submitted to some or 348  
all of the electors in that county, or member of the general 349  
assembly whose district contains all or part of that county. 350

(iii) In the case of contributions to or from a 351  
legislative campaign fund, a campaign committee of any of the 352  
following: 353

(I) A senate or house candidate who, if elected, will be a 354  
member of the same party that established the legislative 355  
campaign fund and the same house with which the legislative 356  
campaign fund is associated; 357

(II) A state senator or state representative who is a 358  
member of the same party that established the legislative 359  
campaign fund and the same house with which the legislative 360  
campaign fund is associated. 361

(b) A campaign committee is no longer a "designated state 362

campaign committee" after the campaign committee's candidate 363  
changes the designation of treasurer required to be filed under 364  
division (D)(1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code to 365  
indicate that the person intends to be a candidate for, or 366  
becomes a candidate for nomination or election to, any office 367  
that, if elected, would not qualify that candidate's campaign 368  
committee as a "designated state campaign committee" under 369  
division (A)(9)(a) of this section. 370

(B)(1)(a) No individual who is seven years of age or older 371  
shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more 372  
than: 373

(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 374  
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a 375  
general election period; 376

(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 377  
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a 378  
general election period; 379

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of 380  
any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a 381  
general election period; 382

(iv) Ten thousand dollars to a county political party of 383  
the county in which the individual's designated Ohio residence 384  
is located for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar 385  
year; 386

(v) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative 387  
campaign fund in a calendar year; 388

(vi) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political 389  
party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year; 390

(vii) Ten thousand dollars to any one political action committee in a calendar year;	391 392
(viii) Ten thousand dollars to any one political contributing entity in a calendar year.	393 394
(b) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to the state candidate fund of a county political party of any county other than the county in which the individual's designated Ohio residence is located.	395 396 397 398
(c) No individual who is under seven years of age shall make any contribution.	399 400
(2) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no political action committee shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more than:	401 402 403
(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;	404 405 406
(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;	407 408 409
(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a general election period;	410 411 412
(iv) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year;	413 414
(v) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year;	415 416
(vi) Ten thousand dollars to another political action	417

committee or to a political contributing entity in a calendar 418  
year. This division does not apply to a political action 419  
committee that makes a contribution to a political action 420  
committee or a political contributing entity affiliated with it. 421  
For purposes of this division, a political action committee is 422  
affiliated with another political action committee or with a 423  
political contributing entity if they are both established, 424  
financed, maintained, or controlled by, or if they are, the same 425  
corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 426  
association, or other person, including any parent, subsidiary, 427  
division, or department of that corporation, organization, labor 428  
organization, continuing association, or other person. 429

(b) No political action committee shall make a 430  
contribution or contributions to a county political party for 431  
the party's state candidate fund. 432

(3) No campaign committee shall make a contribution or 433  
contributions aggregating more than: 434

(a) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 435  
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a 436  
general election period; 437

(b) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 438  
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a 439  
general election period; 440

(c) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 441  
one house candidate in a primary election period or in a general 442  
election period; 443

(d) Ten thousand dollars to any one political action 444  
committee in a calendar year; 445



(e) Ten thousand dollars to any one political contributing 446  
entity in a calendar year. 447

(4) (a) Subject to division (D) (3) of this section, no 448  
political party shall make a contribution or contributions 449  
aggregating more than ten thousand dollars to any one political 450  
action committee or to any one political contributing entity in 451  
a calendar year. 452

(b) No county political party shall make a contribution or 453  
contributions to another county political party. 454

(5) (a) Subject to division (B) (5) (b) of this section, no 455  
campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign 456  
committee, shall make a contribution or contributions 457  
aggregating in a calendar year more than: 458

(i) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political 459  
party for the party's state candidate fund; 460

(ii) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative 461  
campaign fund; 462

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to any one county political 463  
party for the party's state candidate fund. 464

(b) No campaign committee shall make a contribution or 465  
contributions to a county political party for the party's state 466  
candidate fund unless one of the following applies: 467

(i) The campaign committee's candidate will appear on a 468  
ballot in that county. 469

(ii) The campaign committee's candidate is the holder of 470  
an elected public office that represents all or part of the 471  
population of that county at the time the contribution is made. 472

(6) (a) No state candidate fund of a county political party shall make a contribution or contributions, except a contribution or contributions to a designated state campaign committee, in a primary election period or a general election period, aggregating more than:

(i) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate;

(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate;

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate.

(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:

(I) Five hundred thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate;

(II) One hundred thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one senate candidate;

(III) Fifty thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any one house candidate.

(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:

(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; 501

(II) Twenty-five thousand dollars in a primary election 502  
period or fifty thousand dollars in a general election period to 503  
the campaign committee of any one house candidate. 504

(iii) As used in divisions (B) (6) (b) and (C) (6) of this 505  
section, "transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents" 506  
does not include any in-kind contributions. 507

(c) A county political party that has no state candidate 508  
fund and that is located in a county having a population of less 509  
than one hundred fifty thousand may make one or more 510  
contributions from other accounts to any one statewide candidate 511  
or to any one designated state campaign committee that do not 512  
exceed, in the aggregate, two thousand five hundred dollars in 513  
any primary election period or general election period. 514

(d) No legislative campaign fund shall make a 515  
contribution, other than to a designated state campaign 516  
committee or to the state candidate fund of a political party. 517

(7) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no 518  
political contributing entity shall make a contribution or 519  
contributions aggregating more than: 520

(i) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 521  
one statewide candidate in a primary election period or in a 522  
general election period; 523

(ii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of any 524  
one senate candidate in a primary election period or in a 525  
general election period; 526

(iii) Ten thousand dollars to the campaign committee of 527  
any one house candidate in a primary election period or in a 528

general election period; 529

(iv) Fifteen thousand dollars to any one legislative 530  
campaign fund in a calendar year; 531

(v) Thirty thousand dollars to any one state political 532  
party for the party's state candidate fund in a calendar year; 533

(vi) Ten thousand dollars to another political 534  
contributing entity or to a political action committee in a 535  
calendar year. This division does not apply to a political 536  
contributing entity that makes a contribution to a political 537  
contributing entity or a political action committee affiliated 538  
with it. For purposes of this division, a political contributing 539  
entity is affiliated with another political contributing entity 540  
or with a political action committee if they are both 541  
established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or if they 542  
are, the same corporation, organization, labor organization, 543  
continuing association, or other person, including any parent, 544  
subsidiary, division, or department of that corporation, 545  
organization, labor organization, continuing association, or 546  
other person. 547

(b) No political contributing entity shall make a 548  
contribution or contributions to a county political party for 549  
the party's state candidate fund. 550

(C) (1) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no 551  
campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall do any of the 552  
following: 553

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 554  
any individual who is under seven years of age; 555

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 556

more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 557  
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 558  
committee, from any one political contributing entity, or from 559  
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 560  
in a general election period; 561

(iii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 562  
more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars from any one or 563  
combination of state candidate funds of county political parties 564  
in a primary election period or in a general election period. 565

(b) No campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall 566  
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 567  
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 568  
a general election period from a county political party that has 569  
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 570  
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 571

(2) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section and 572  
except for a designated state campaign committee, no campaign 573  
committee of a senate candidate shall do either of the 574  
following: 575

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 576  
any individual who is under seven years of age; 577

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 578  
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 579  
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 580  
committee, from any one political contributing entity, from any 581  
one state candidate fund of a county political party, or from 582  
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 583  
in a general election period. 584

(b) No campaign committee of a senate candidate shall 585

accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 586  
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 587  
a general election period from a county political party that has 588  
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 589  
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 590

(3) (a) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section and 591  
except for a designated state campaign committee, no campaign 592  
committee of a house candidate shall do either of the following: 593

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 594  
any individual who is under seven years of age; 595

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 596  
more than ten thousand dollars from any one individual who is 597  
seven years of age or older, from any one political action 598  
committee, from any one political contributing entity, from any 599  
one state candidate fund of a county political party, or from 600  
any one other campaign committee in a primary election period or 601  
in a general election period. 602

(b) No campaign committee of a house candidate shall 603  
accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than two 604  
thousand five hundred dollars in a primary election period or in 605  
a general election period from a county political party that has 606  
no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a 607  
population of less than one hundred fifty thousand. 608

(4) (a) (i) Subject to division (C) (4) (a) (ii) of this 609  
section and except for a designated state campaign committee, no 610  
county political party shall knowingly accept a contribution or 611  
contributions from any individual who is under seven years of 612  
age, or accept a contribution or contributions for the party's 613  
state candidate fund aggregating more than ten thousand dollars 614

from any one individual whose designated Ohio residence is 615  
located within that county and who is seven years of age or 616  
older or from any one campaign committee in a calendar year. 617

(ii) Subject to division (D)(1) of this section, no county 618  
political party shall accept a contribution or contributions for 619  
the party's state candidate fund from any individual whose 620  
designated Ohio residence is located outside of that county and 621  
who is seven years of age or older, from any campaign committee 622  
unless the campaign committee's candidate will appear on a 623  
ballot in that county or unless the campaign committee's 624  
candidate is the holder of an elected public office that 625  
represents all or part of the population of that county at the 626  
time the contribution is accepted, or from any political action 627  
committee or any political contributing entity. 628

(iii) No county political party shall accept a 629  
contribution or contributions from any other county political 630  
party. 631

(b) Subject to division (D)(1) of this section, no state 632  
political party shall do either of the following: 633

(i) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 634  
any individual who is under seven years of age; 635

(ii) Accept a contribution or contributions for the 636  
party's state candidate fund aggregating more than thirty 637  
thousand dollars from any one individual who is seven years of 638  
age or older, from any one political action committee, from any 639  
one political contributing entity, or from any one campaign 640  
committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, in 641  
a calendar year. 642

(5) Subject to division (D)(1) of this section, no 643

legislative campaign fund shall do either of the following: 644

(a) Knowingly accept a contribution or contributions from 645  
any individual who is under seven years of age; 646

(b) Accept a contribution or contributions aggregating 647  
more than fifteen thousand dollars from any one individual who 648  
is seven years of age or older, from any one political action 649  
committee, from any one political contributing entity, or from 650  
any one campaign committee, other than a designated state 651  
campaign committee, in a calendar year. 652

(6) (a) No designated state campaign committee shall accept 653  
a transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents from a 654  
state candidate fund of a state political party aggregating in a 655  
primary election period or a general election period more than: 656

(i) Five hundred thousand dollars, in the case of a 657  
campaign committee of a statewide candidate; 658

(ii) One hundred thousand dollars, in the case of a 659  
campaign committee of a senate candidate; 660

(iii) Fifty thousand dollars, in the case of a campaign 661  
committee of a house candidate. 662

(b) No designated state campaign committee shall accept a 663  
transfer or contribution of cash or cash equivalents from a 664  
legislative campaign fund aggregating more than: 665

(i) Fifty thousand dollars in a primary election period or 666  
one hundred thousand dollars in a general election period, in 667  
the case of a campaign committee of a senate candidate; 668

(ii) Twenty-five thousand dollars in a primary election 669  
period or fifty thousand dollars in a general election period, 670  
in the case of a campaign committee of a house candidate. 671



(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:

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no political action committee shall accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars from another political action committee or from a political contributing entity in a calendar year. Subject to division (D) (1) of this section, no political contributing entity shall accept a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars from another political contributing entity or from a political action committee in a calendar year. This division does not apply to a political action committee or

political contributing entity that accepts a contribution from a 701  
political action committee or political contributing entity 702  
affiliated with it. For purposes of this division, a political 703  
action committee is affiliated with another political action 704  
committee or with a political contributing entity if they are 705  
both established, financed, maintained, or controlled by the 706  
same corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 707  
association, or other person, including any parent, subsidiary, 708  
division, or department of that corporation, organization, labor 709  
organization, continuing association, or other person. 710

(D) (1) (a) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in 711  
division (B) (2) of this section and the limitations prescribed 712  
in divisions (C) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7) (b) of this 713  
section, whichever is applicable, all contributions made by and 714  
all contributions accepted from political action committees that 715  
are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or that 716  
are, the same corporation, organization, labor organization, 717  
continuing association, or other person, including any parent, 718  
subsidiary, division, or department of that corporation, 719  
organization, labor organization, continuing association, or 720  
other person, are considered to have been made by or accepted 721  
from a single political action committee. 722

(b) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in division 723  
(B) (7) of this section and the limitations prescribed in 724  
divisions (C) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7) (b) of this 725  
section, whichever is applicable, all contributions made by and 726  
all contributions accepted from political contributing entities 727  
that are established, financed, maintained, or controlled by, or 728  
that are, the same corporation, organization, labor 729  
organization, continuing association, or other person, including 730

any parent, subsidiary, division, or department of that 731  
corporation, organization, labor organization, continuing 732  
association, or other person, are considered to have been made 733  
by or accepted from a single political contributing entity. 734

(2) As used in divisions (B) (1) (a) (vii), (B) (3) (d), (B) (4) 735  
(a), and (C) (7) of this section, "political action committee" 736  
does not include a political action committee that is organized 737  
to support or oppose a ballot issue or question and that makes 738  
no contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a political 739  
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 740  
action committee, or political contributing entity. As used in 741  
divisions (B) (1) (a) (viii), (B) (3) (e), (B) (4) (a), and (C) (7) of 742  
this section, "political contributing entity" does not include a 743  
political contributing entity that is organized to support or 744  
oppose a ballot issue or question and that makes no 745  
contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a political party, 746  
campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action 747  
committee, or political contributing entity. 748

(3) For purposes of the limitations prescribed in 749  
divisions (B) (4) and (C) (7) (a) of this section, all 750  
contributions made by and all contributions accepted from a 751  
national political party, a state political party, and a county 752  
political party are considered to have been made by or accepted 753  
from a single political party and shall be combined with each 754  
other to determine whether the limitations have been exceeded. 755

(E) (1) If a legislative campaign fund has kept a total 756  
amount of contributions exceeding one hundred fifty thousand 757  
dollars at the close of business on the seventh day before the 758  
postgeneral election statement is required to be filed under 759  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, the legislative campaign 760

fund shall comply with division (E) (2) of this section. 761

(2) (a) Any legislative campaign fund that has kept a total 762  
amount of contributions in excess of the amount specified in 763  
division (E) (1) of this section at the close of business on the 764  
seventh day before the postgeneral election statement is 765  
required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 766  
shall dispose of the excess amount in the manner prescribed in 767  
division (E) (2) (b) (i), (ii), or (iii) of this section not later 768  
than ninety days after the day the postgeneral election 769  
statement is required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the 770  
Revised Code. Any legislative campaign fund that is required to 771  
dispose of an excess amount of contributions under this division 772  
shall file a statement on the ninetieth day after the 773  
postgeneral election statement is required to be filed under 774  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code indicating the total amount 775  
of contributions the fund has at the close of business on the 776  
seventh day before the postgeneral election statement is 777  
required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 778  
and that the excess contributions were disposed of pursuant to 779  
this division and division (E) (2) (b) of this section. The 780  
statement shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 781  
state and shall contain any additional information the secretary 782  
of state considers necessary. 783

(b) Any legislative campaign fund that is required to 784  
dispose of an excess amount of contributions under division (E) 785  
(2) of this section shall dispose of that excess amount by doing 786  
any of the following: 787

(i) Giving the amount to the treasurer of state for 788  
deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio 789  
~~elections~~ election integrity commission fund created by ~~division~~ 790

~~(I) of section 3517.152-111.29~~ of the Revised Code; 791

(ii) Giving the amount to individuals who made 792  
contributions to that legislative campaign fund as a refund of 793  
all or part of their contributions; 794

(iii) Giving the amount to a corporation that is exempt 795  
from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and 796  
described in subsection 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. 797

(F) (1) No legislative campaign fund shall fail to file a 798  
statement required by division (E) of this section. 799

(2) No legislative campaign fund shall fail to dispose of 800  
excess contributions as required by division (E) of this 801  
section. 802

(G) Nothing in this section shall affect, be used in 803  
determining, or supersede a limitation on campaign contributions 804  
as provided for in the Federal Election Campaign Act. " 805

Delete lines 71802 through 72086 (remove R.C. 3517.1011) 806

Delete lines 72364 through 72901 (remove R.C. 3517.121 and 3517.13) 807  
and insert: 808

**"Sec. 3517.121.** Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 809  
the Revised Code: 810

(A) As used in this section: 811

(1) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning as 812  
in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 813

(2) "Foreign national" means any of the following, as 814  
applicable: 815

(a) In the case of an individual, an individual who is not 816

- a United States citizen or national; 817
- (b) A government of a foreign country or of a political 818  
subdivision of a foreign country; 819
- (c) A foreign political party; 820
- (d) A person, other than an individual, that is organized 821  
under the laws of, or has its principal place of business in, a 822  
foreign country. 823
- (B) No foreign national shall, directly or indirectly 824  
through any person or entity, do any of the following: 825
- (1) Make a contribution, expenditure, or independent 826  
expenditure in support of or opposition to a candidate for any 827  
elective office in this state, including an office of a 828  
political party; 829
- (2) Make a contribution, expenditure, or independent 830  
expenditure in support of or opposition to a statewide ballot 831  
issue or question, regardless of whether the ballot issue or 832  
question has yet been certified to appear on the ballot; 833
- (3) Make a disbursement for the direct cost of producing 834  
or airing an electioneering communication; 835
- (4) Make a contribution to a candidate, campaign 836  
committee, political action committee, political contributing 837  
entity, legislative campaign fund, state candidate fund, 838  
political party, or separate segregated fund, to any committee 839  
created to support or oppose a ballot issue or question, or, to 840  
the maximum extent permitted by law and by the constitutions of 841  
the United States and of this state, to a continuing 842  
association; 843
- (5) Promise, either expressly or implicitly, to make a 844

contribution, expenditure, independent expenditure, or 845  
disbursement described in division (B) (1), (2), (3), or (4) of 846  
this section. 847

(C) No individual, candidate, campaign committee, 848  
political action committee, political contributing entity, 849  
legislative campaign fund, state candidate fund, political 850  
party, separate segregated fund, or committee created to support 851  
or oppose a ballot issue or question and, to the maximum extent 852  
permitted by law and by the constitutions of the United States 853  
and of this state, no continuing association shall, directly or 854  
indirectly through any other person or entity, knowingly do 855  
either of the following: 856

(1) Solicit, accept, or receive any funds from a foreign 857  
national for any purpose described in division (B) of this 858  
section; 859

(2) Make a contribution, expenditure, or independent 860  
expenditure using any funds the person knows were received from 861  
a foreign national for any purpose described in division (B) of 862  
this section. 863

(D) No person shall knowingly aid or facilitate a 864  
violation of division (B) or (C) of this section. 865

(E) Any complaint that alleges a violation of division (W) 866  
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be treated as 867  
instead alleging a violation of this section. 868

(F) (1) Whoever knowingly violates division (B) of this 869  
section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree on a 870  
first offense and is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree on a 871  
second or subsequent offense. The violator also shall be fined 872  
an amount equal to three times the amount involved in the 873

violation or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is greater. 874

(2) Whoever knowingly violates division (C) of this 875  
section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree on a 876  
first offense and is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree on a 877  
second or subsequent offense. The violator also shall be fined 878  
an amount equal to three times the amount involved in the 879  
violation or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is greater, 880  
and shall be required to return the total amount accepted in 881  
violation of that division to the foreign national from whom it 882  
was accepted. 883

(3) Whoever knowingly violates division (D) of this 884  
section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall 885  
be fined one thousand dollars. 886

(G) (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (G) (1) 887  
(b) of this section, the attorney general has exclusive 888  
authority to prosecute a violation of this section and has 889  
exclusive supervision and control of all investigations, 890  
prosecutions, and enforcement proceedings under this section. 891

(b) If the attorney general is a victim or witness or 892  
otherwise involved in an alleged violation of this section, the 893  
attorney general shall refer the matter to the appropriate 894  
prosecutor, as determined under division ~~(A) (2)~~ (C) of section 895  
~~3517.155~~ 3517.17 of the Revised Code, except that if applicable, 896  
the attorney general shall make the determination described in 897  
division ~~(A) (2) (b)~~ (B) (2) of that section instead of the Ohio 898  
~~elections~~ election integrity commission. 899

(2) Upon the occurrence of either of the following, the 900  
attorney general shall investigate an alleged violation of this 901  
section in consultation with the secretary of state: 902



(a) The submission of a written request to the attorney general by the governor, the secretary of state, the general assembly, or the Ohio ~~elections~~election integrity commission, alleging a violation of this section;

(b) The filing of a complaint with the attorney general by an elector of this state, alleging a violation of this section.

(3) If it appears to the attorney general, after conducting an investigation under division (G) (2) of this section, that there is probable cause to believe that a violation of this section has occurred, the attorney general may prosecute the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(H) When proceeding under this section, the attorney general and any assistant or special counsel designated by the attorney general for that purpose have all the rights, privileges, and powers conferred by law on prosecuting attorneys, including the power to appear before grand juries and to interrogate witnesses before such grand juries. These powers of the attorney general are in addition to any other applicable powers of the attorney general."

In line 74032, delete "or (Y)"

In line 74248, after "~~(CC) (1)~~" insert "(BB) (1)"; reinsert "Subject to division"; after "~~(CC) (2)~~" insert "(BB) (2)"; reinsert "of this section,"

Reinsert lines 74249 through 74252

In line 74253, reinsert "(2) Whoever has been ordered by the Ohio"; after "~~elections~~" insert "election integrity"

Reinsert lines 74254 through 74259

In line 74260, delete "(BB) (1)" and insert "(CC) (1)"

In line 74268, delete "(CC) (1)" and insert "(DD) (1)" 931

Delete lines 74283 through 74409 (remove R.C. 3599.03) 932

Delete lines 84138 through 84170 (remove R.C. 3921.22) 933

Delete lines 84949 through 84992 (remove R.C. 4123.442) 934

Delete lines 90101 through 90421 (remove R.C. 4503.03) 935

Update the title, amend, enact, or repeal clauses accordingly 936

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

#### SYNOPSIS

##### **Campaign finance**

R.C. 3517.01, 3517.08, 3517.10, 3517.102, 3517.105,  
3517.106, 3517.107, 3517.1011, 3517.121, 3517.13, 3517.992  
(3517.99), 3599.03, 3921.22, 4123.442, and 4503.03

Removes provisions of the Senate-passed bill that would  
have done all of the following:

- Eliminated prohibitions against a corporation or labor  
organization making an independent expenditure regarding a  
candidate.

- Eliminated dollar limits on contributions to entities  
that make only independent expenditures.

- Prohibited a political action committee or political  
contributing entity that accepts a contribution from a  
corporation or labor organization from then making a

contribution to any entity other than one that makes only 952  
independent expenditures. 953

- Required a corporation or labor organization that makes 954  
independent expenditures to report its expenditures in the same 955  
manner as other political entities. 956

- Allowed a person who is not a U.S. citizen or national, 957  
but is a lawful permanent U.S. resident (green card holder), to 958  
make campaign contributions, expenditures, and independent 959  
expenditures for state and local candidates, but not ballot 960  
issues. 961