

HCS HB 1900 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SPONSOR: May (Dempsey)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 6 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding campaign finance. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires lobbyists to include expenditures for all members of either a majority or minority caucus in both houses of the General Assembly in their monthly reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission;

(2) Requires the executive director of the commission to notify candidates and the treasurer of a campaign committee of the failure to file campaign disclosure reports and the fines that will be assessed. Notice will no longer be required for deputy treasurers;

(3) Requires continuing committees that are not controlled or directed by a candidate to be formed no later than 60 days prior to the election that the committee seeks to influence;

(4) Removes obsolete references to Section 130.051, RSMo;

(5) Prohibits the formation of candidate committees for the offices of Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tem of the Senate;

(6) Requires disclosure reports to be electronically filed with the commission which must establish rules for the filing; and

(7) Requires the commission to audit campaign disclosure reports and provide the results four times a year to the General Assembly. Monthly disclosure reports will be audited randomly with the results being presented annually to the General Assembly. Errors in contribution and expenditure reports that are identified by the commission will be posted on the Internet as well as sent to the candidates and treasurers in the form of a notice in the regular mail. If there is an error with a contribution that is not corrected within 30 days of the date of the notification letter, the contribution will go to the state. If there is an error with an expenditure that is not corrected within the 30-day period, the expenditure will be forwarded to the State Treasurer.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will simplify auditing procedures and enforce late filing penalties for campaign committees.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dempsey.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Jason Glahn, Legislative Analyst