

Senate Bill 276

By: Senators Esteves of the 6th, McLaurin of the 14th, Islam of the 7th, Jackson of the 41st,
Merritt of the 9th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to campaign contributions, so as to abolish leadership committees; to provide for the
3 distribution of funds from existing committees; to provide for certain reports; to provide for
4 related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 campaign contributions, is amended by revising Code Section 21-5-34.2, relating to
10 leadership committee defined, operation, and separate from campaign committees, as
11 follows:

12 "21-5-34.2.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'leadership committee' means a committee,
14 corporation, or organization chaired by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the
15 nominee of a political party for Governor selected in a primary election in the year in
16 which he or she is nominated, or the nominee of a political party for Lieutenant Governor
17 selected in a primary election in the year in which he or she is nominated. Such term shall

18 also mean up to two political action committees designated by the majority caucus of the
19 House of Representatives, the minority caucus of the House of Representatives, the
20 majority caucus of the Senate, and the minority caucus of the Senate. ~~No person may chair
21 more than one leadership committee.~~

22 (b) ~~A Each leadership committee may receive contributions from persons who are
23 members or supporters of the leadership committee and expend such funds as permitted by
24 this Code section existing on July 1, 2023, shall be abolished except for the purpose of
25 filing the reports required by this Code section. Not later than June 30, 2023, all funds held
26 by such leadership committee shall be distributed by the committee to:~~

27 ~~(1) Any charitable organization described in 26 U.S.C. 1709(c) as such federal statute
28 existed on March 1, 1986, which shall additionally include educational, eleemosynary,
29 and nonprofit organizations, subject to the limitations provided in paragraph (2) of
30 subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33;~~

31 ~~(2) Any national, state, or local committee of any political party; or~~

32 ~~(3) Any person who contributed to such leadership committee, not to exceed the total
33 cumulative amount contributed by each such transferee.~~

34 ~~(c) If a person chairing a leadership committee ceases to hold the office or the status as a
35 nominee of a political party as described in subsection (a) of this Code section, such person
36 shall transfer the remaining assets of the leadership committee, if any, to another leadership
37 committee within 60 days, name an eligible person as the new chairperson of the leadership
38 committee within 60 days, or dispose of the leadership committee's assets as provided by
39 Code Section 21-5-33.~~

40 ~~(d) A leadership committee may accept contributions or make expenditures for the purpose
41 of affecting the outcome of any election or advocating for the election or defeat of any
42 candidate, may defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with any
43 candidate's campaign for elective office, and may defray ordinary and necessary expenses
44 incurred in connection with a public officer's fulfillment or retention of such office.~~

45 ~~(e)(c) A Any leadership committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures in~~
46 ~~excess of \$500.00 shall register with the commission within ten days of such accepted~~
47 ~~contribution or such expenditure and, thereafter, shall file disclosure reports pursuant to the~~
48 ~~schedule defined for candidates and campaign committees in subsection (c) of Code~~
49 ~~Section 21-5-34. Such disclosure reports shall be made pursuant to subsection (b) of Code~~
50 ~~Section 21-5-34. The contribution limits in Code Section 21-5-41 shall not apply to~~
51 ~~contributions to a leadership committee or expenditures made by a leadership committee~~
52 ~~in support of a candidate or a group of named candidates. All communications paid for by~~
53 ~~expenditures of the leadership committee shall contain a disclaimer, either audibly or in~~
54 ~~writing, that the communication is paid for by the leadership committee, unless such~~
55 ~~disclaimer is impractical.~~
56 ~~(f) A leadership committee shall be a separate legal entity from a candidate's campaign~~
57 ~~committee and shall not be considered an independent committee."~~

58 **SECTION 2.**

59 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
60 without such approval. It is the intent of the General Assembly that this Act shall not affect
61 the prosecution, whether criminal or administrative, of any conduct under the previous law
62 while such law was effective and shall not abate any prosecutions or administrative
63 proceedings thereunder.

64 **SECTION 3.**

65 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.