

Senate Bill 277

By: Senator Tippins of the 37th

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 revise certain exemptions from filing campaign
3 disclosure reports; to revise certain reporting requirements; to require political action
4 committees to file certain reports; to provide for related matters; 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 subsections (e) and (f) of Code
10 Section 21-5-34, relating to disclosure reports, as follows:

11 "(e) Any person who makes contributions to, accepts contributions for, or makes
12 expenditures on behalf of or in opposition to candidates, and any independent committee
13 and any political action committee, shall file a registration in the same manner as is
14 required of campaign committees prior to accepting or making contributions or
15 expenditures. Such persons, other than independent committees and political action
16 committees, shall also file campaign contribution disclosure reports at the same times as
17 required of the candidates they are supporting or opposing. The following persons shall
18 be exempt from the foregoing registration and reporting requirements:

19 (1) Individuals making aggregate contributions of \$25,000.00 or less directly to
20 candidates or the candidates' campaign committees in one calendar year;

21 (2) Persons, other than individuals, independent committees, and political action
22 committees, making aggregate contributions and expenditures to or on behalf of
23 candidates of \$25,000.00 or less in one calendar year; and

24 (3) Contributors who make contributions to only one candidate during one calendar year.

25 (f)(1) Any independent committee or political action committee which accepts
26 contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an

27 election or advocates the election or defeat of any candidate shall register with the
 28 commission prior to accepting contributions or making expenditures and shall file
 29 disclosure reports as follows:

- 30 (A) On the first day of each of the two calendar months preceding any such election;
- 31 (B) Two weeks prior to the date of such election; and
- 32 (C) Within the two-week period prior to the date of such election the independent
 33 committee or political action committee shall report within two business days any
 34 contributions or expenditure of more than \$1,000.00.

35 The independent committee or political action committee shall file a final report prior to
 36 December 31 of the election year and shall file supplemental reports on June 30 and
 37 December 31 of each year that such independent committee or political action committee
 38 continues to accept contributions or make expenditures.

39 (2) Reports filed by independent committees and political action committees shall list
 40 the following:

- 41 (A) The amount and date of receipt, along with the name, mailing address, occupation,
 42 and employer of any person making a contribution of more than \$100.00 to the
 43 independent committee or political action committee;
- 44 (B) The name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of any person to whom an
 45 expenditure or provision of goods or services of the value of more than \$100.00 is made
 46 and the amount, date, and general purpose thereof, including the name of the candidate
 47 or candidates, if any, on behalf of whom, or in support of or in opposition to whom, the
 48 expenditure or provision was made, including contributions to candidates and campaign
 49 committees;
- 50 (C) Total expenditures made as follows:
 - 51 (i) Expenditures shall be reported for the applicable reporting year;
 - 52 (ii) The first report of a reporting year shall list the total expenditures made during
 53 the period covered by the report; and
 - 54 (iii) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period
 55 covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the reporting
 56 year, and net balance on hand; and
- 57 (D) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee,
 58 candidate, campaign committee, or independent committee making a contribution of
 59 the value of more than \$100.00 to the independent committee or political action
 60 committee.

61 (3) Whenever any independent committee or political action committee makes an
 62 expenditure for the purpose of financing any communication intended to affect the

63 outcome of an election, such communication shall clearly state that it has been financed
64 by such independent committee or political action committee."

65 **SECTION 2.**

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