

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 609**

**Representatives Hillyer, Holmes**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3517.13 of the Revised Code to 1  
modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding 2  
foreign nationals and statewide initiatives and 3  
referenda and to declare an emergency. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 3517.13 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3517.13.** (A) (1) No campaign committee of a statewide 7  
candidate shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement 8  
required under division (A) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 9  
Code. 10

(2) No campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall 11  
fail to file a complete and accurate monthly statement, and no 12  
campaign committee of a statewide candidate or a candidate for 13  
the office of chief justice or justice of the supreme court 14  
shall fail to file a complete and accurate two-business-day 15  
statement, as required under section 3517.10 of the Revised 16  
Code. 17

As used in this division, "statewide candidate" has the 18  
same meaning as in division (F) (2) of section 3517.10 of the 19

Revised Code.	20
(B) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement required under division (A) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code.	21 22 23
(C) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement required under division (A) (2) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code.	24 25 26
(D) No campaign committee shall fail to file a complete and accurate statement required under division (A) (3) or (4) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code.	27 28 29
(E) No person other than a campaign committee shall knowingly fail to file a statement required under section 3517.10 or 3517.107 of the Revised Code.	30 31 32
(F) No person shall make cash contributions to any person totaling more than one hundred dollars in each primary, special, or general election.	33 34 35
(G) (1) No person shall knowingly conceal or misrepresent contributions given or received, expenditures made, or any other information required to be reported by a provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13 of the Revised Code.	36 37 38 39
(2) (a) No person shall make a contribution to a campaign committee, political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, political party, or person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications in the name of another person.	40 41 42 43 44 45
(b) A person does not make a contribution in the name of another when either of the following applies:	46 47

(i) An individual makes a contribution from a partnership 48  
or other unincorporated business account, if the contribution is 49  
reported by listing both the name of the partnership or other 50  
unincorporated business and the name of the partner or owner 51  
making the contribution as required under division (I) of 52  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 53

(ii) A person makes a contribution in that person's 54  
spouse's name or in both of their names. 55

(H) No person within this state, publishing a newspaper or 56  
other periodical, shall charge a campaign committee for 57  
political advertising a rate in excess of the rate such person 58  
would charge if the campaign committee were a general rate 59  
advertiser whose advertising was directed to promoting its 60  
business within the same area as that encompassed by the 61  
particular office that the candidate of the campaign committee 62  
is seeking. The rate shall take into account the amount of space 63  
used, as well as the type of advertising copy submitted by or on 64  
behalf of the campaign committee. All discount privileges 65  
otherwise offered by a newspaper or periodical to general rate 66  
advertisers shall be available upon equal terms to all campaign 67  
committees. 68

No person within this state, operating a radio or 69  
television station or network of stations in this state, shall 70  
charge a campaign committee for political broadcasts a rate that 71  
exceeds: 72

(1) During the forty-five days preceding the date of a 73  
primary election and during the sixty days preceding the date of 74  
a general or special election in which the candidate of the 75  
campaign committee is seeking office, the lowest unit charge of 76  
the station for the same class and amount of time for the same 77

period; 78

(2) At any other time, the charges made for comparable use 79  
of that station by its other users. 80

(I) Subject to divisions (K), (L), (M), and (N) of this 81  
section, no agency or department of this state or any political 82  
subdivision shall award any contract, other than one let by 83  
competitive bidding or a contract incidental to such contract or 84  
which is by force account, for the purchase of goods costing 85  
more than five hundred dollars or services costing more than 86  
five hundred dollars to any individual, partnership, 87  
association, including, without limitation, a professional 88  
association organized under Chapter 1785. of the Revised Code, 89  
estate, or trust if the individual has made or the individual's 90  
spouse has made, or any partner, shareholder, administrator, 91  
executor, or trustee or the spouse of any of them has made, as 92  
an individual, within the two previous calendar years, one or 93  
more contributions totaling in excess of one thousand dollars to 94  
the holder of the public office having ultimate responsibility 95  
for the award of the contract or to the public officer's 96  
campaign committee. 97

(J) Subject to divisions (K), (L), (M), and (N) of this 98  
section, no agency or department of this state or any political 99  
subdivision shall award any contract, other than one let by 100  
competitive bidding or a contract incidental to such contract or 101  
which is by force account, for the purchase of goods costing 102  
more than five hundred dollars or services costing more than 103  
five hundred dollars to a corporation or business trust, except 104  
a professional association organized under Chapter 1785. of the 105  
Revised Code, if an owner of more than twenty per cent of the 106  
corporation or business trust or the spouse of that person has 107

made, as an individual, within the two previous calendar years, 108  
taking into consideration only owners for all of that period, 109  
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one thousand 110  
dollars to the holder of a public office having ultimate 111  
responsibility for the award of the contract or to the public 112  
officer's campaign committee. 113

(K) For purposes of divisions (I) and (J) of this section, 114  
if a public officer who is responsible for the award of a 115  
contract is appointed by the governor, whether or not the 116  
appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the senate, 117  
excluding members of boards, commissions, committees, 118  
authorities, councils, boards of trustees, task forces, and 119  
other such entities appointed by the governor, the office of the 120  
governor is considered to have ultimate responsibility for the 121  
award of the contract. 122

(L) For purposes of divisions (I) and (J) of this section, 123  
if a public officer who is responsible for the award of a 124  
contract is appointed by the elected chief executive officer of 125  
a municipal corporation, or appointed by the elected chief 126  
executive officer of a county operating under an alternative 127  
form of county government or county charter, excluding members 128  
of boards, commissions, committees, authorities, councils, 129  
boards of trustees, task forces, and other such entities 130  
appointed by the chief executive officer, the office of the 131  
chief executive officer is considered to have ultimate 132  
responsibility for the award of the contract. 133

(M) (1) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply 134  
to contracts awarded by the board of commissioners of the 135  
sinking fund, municipal legislative authorities, boards of 136  
education, boards of county commissioners, boards of township 137

trustees, or other boards, commissions, committees, authorities, 138  
councils, boards of trustees, task forces, and other such 139  
entities created by law, by the supreme court or courts of 140  
appeals, by county courts consisting of more than one judge, 141  
courts of common pleas consisting of more than one judge, or 142  
municipal courts consisting of more than one judge, or by a 143  
division of any court if the division consists of more than one 144  
judge. This division shall apply to the specified entity only if 145  
the members of the entity act collectively in the award of a 146  
contract for goods or services. 147

(2) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply to 148  
actions of the controlling board. 149

(N) (1) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section apply to 150  
contributions made to the holder of a public office having 151  
ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, or to the 152  
public officer's campaign committee, during the time the person 153  
holds the office and during any time such person was a candidate 154  
for the office. Those divisions do not apply to contributions 155  
made to, or to the campaign committee of, a candidate for or 156  
holder of the office other than the holder of the office at the 157  
time of the award of the contract. 158

(2) Divisions (I) and (J) of this section do not apply to 159  
contributions of a partner, shareholder, administrator, 160  
executor, trustee, or owner of more than twenty per cent of a 161  
corporation or business trust made before the person held any of 162  
those positions or after the person ceased to hold any of those 163  
positions in the partnership, association, estate, trust, 164  
corporation, or business trust whose eligibility to be awarded a 165  
contract is being determined, nor to contributions of the 166  
person's spouse made before the person held any of those 167

positions, after the person ceased to hold any of those 168  
positions, before the two were married, after the granting of a 169  
decree of divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, or 170  
after the granting of an order in an action brought solely for 171  
legal separation. Those divisions do not apply to contributions 172  
of the spouse of an individual whose eligibility to be awarded a 173  
contract is being determined made before the two were married, 174  
after the granting of a decree of divorce, dissolution of 175  
marriage, or annulment, or after the granting of an order in an 176  
action brought solely for legal separation. 177

(0) No beneficiary of a campaign fund or other person 178  
shall convert for personal use, and no person shall knowingly 179  
give to a beneficiary of a campaign fund or any other person, 180  
for the beneficiary's or any other person's personal use, 181  
anything of value from the beneficiary's campaign fund, 182  
including, without limitation, payments to a beneficiary for 183  
services the beneficiary personally performs, except as 184  
reimbursement for any of the following: 185

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses 186  
incurred by the beneficiary; 187

(2) Legitimate and verifiable ordinary and necessary prior 188  
expenses incurred by the beneficiary in connection with duties 189  
as the holder of a public office, including, without limitation, 190  
expenses incurred through participation in nonpartisan or 191  
bipartisan events if the participation of the holder of a public 192  
office would normally be expected; 193

(3) Legitimate and verifiable ordinary and necessary prior 194  
expenses incurred by the beneficiary while doing any of the 195  
following: 196

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to a candidate other than the beneficiary, political party, or ballot issue;	197 198 199
(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, campaign committee, or other candidate;	200 201 202
(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or campaign committee;	203 204 205
(d) Attending a political party convention or other political meeting.	206 207
For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred whenever a beneficiary has either made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other credit procedure or by the use of goods or services received on account.	208 209 210 211 212
(P) No beneficiary of a campaign fund shall knowingly accept, and no person shall knowingly give to the beneficiary of a campaign fund, reimbursement for an expense under division (O) of this section to the extent that the expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (O) of this section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from another source of funds, the beneficiary shall repay the reimbursement received under division (O) of this section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement received from the other source.	213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222
(Q) No candidate or public official or employee shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from a political party, political action committee, political	223 224 225



contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or campaign	226
committee other than the candidate's or public official's or	227
employee's own campaign committee, and no person shall knowingly	228
give to a candidate or public official or employee anything of	229
value from a political party, political action committee,	230
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or	231
such a campaign committee, except for the following:	232
(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable ordinary	233
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law	234
incurred by the candidate or public official or employee while	235
engaged in any legitimate activity of the political party,	236
political action committee, political contributing entity,	237
legislative campaign fund, or such campaign committee. Without	238
limitation, reimbursable expenses under this division include	239
those incurred while doing any of the following:	240
(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to	241
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue;	242
(b) Raising funds for a political party, legislative	243
campaign fund, campaign committee, or another candidate;	244
(c) Attending a political party convention or other	245
political meeting.	246
(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for	247
actual and valuable personal services rendered under a written	248
contract to the political party, political action committee,	249
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or	250
such campaign committee for any legitimate activity of the	251
political party, political action committee, political	252
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or such campaign	253
committee.	254

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 255  
and it is a violation of this division for a candidate or public 256  
official or employee to accept, or for any person to knowingly 257  
give to a candidate or public official or employee from a 258  
political party, political action committee, political 259  
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or campaign 260  
committee other than the candidate's or public official's or 261  
employee's own campaign committee, anything of value for 262  
activities primarily related to the candidate's or public 263  
official's or employee's own campaign for election, except for 264  
contributions to the candidate's or public official's or 265  
employee's campaign committee. 266

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 267  
whenever a candidate or public official or employee has either 268  
made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a 269  
credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or 270  
services on account. 271

(R) (1) Division (O) or (P) of this section does not 272  
prohibit a campaign committee from making direct advance or post 273  
payment from contributions to vendors for goods and services for 274  
which reimbursement is permitted under division (O) of this 275  
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay its 276  
candidate or other beneficiary for services personally performed 277  
by the candidate or other beneficiary. 278

(2) If any expense that may be reimbursed under division 279  
(O), (P), or (Q) of this section is part of other expenses that 280  
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 281  
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 282  
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 283  
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 284

surrounding circumstances.	285
(3) For purposes of divisions (O), (P), and (Q) of this section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that allowed by the internal revenue service at the time the travel occurs may be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel expenses allowable.	286 287 288 289 290
(S) (1) As used in division (S) of this section:	291
(a) "State elective office" has the same meaning as in section 3517.092 of the Revised Code.	292 293
(b) "Federal office" means a federal office as defined in the Federal Election Campaign Act.	294 295
(c) "Federal campaign committee" means a principal campaign committee or authorized committee as defined in the Federal Election Campaign Act.	296 297 298
(2) No person who is a candidate for state elective office and who previously sought nomination or election to a federal office shall transfer any funds or assets from that person's federal campaign committee for nomination or election to the federal office to that person's campaign committee as a candidate for state elective office.	299 300 301 302 303 304
(3) No campaign committee of a person who is a candidate for state elective office and who previously sought nomination or election to a federal office shall accept any funds or assets from that person's federal campaign committee for that person's nomination or election to the federal office.	305 306 307 308 309
(T) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (6) (c) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, a state or county political party shall not disburse moneys from any account other	310 311 312

than a state candidate fund to make contributions to any of the 313  
following: 314

(a) A state candidate fund; 315

(b) A legislative campaign fund; 316

(c) A campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 317  
governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of 318  
state, treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state 319  
board of education, or member of the general assembly. 320

(2) No state candidate fund, legislative campaign fund, or 321  
campaign committee of a candidate for any office described in 322  
division (T) (1) (c) of this section shall knowingly accept a 323  
contribution in violation of division (T) (1) of this section. 324

(U) No person shall fail to file a statement required 325  
under section 3517.12 of the Revised Code. 326

(V) No campaign committee shall fail to file a statement 327  
required under division (K) (3) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 328  
Code. 329

(W) (1) No foreign national shall, directly or indirectly 330  
through any other person or entity, ~~make knowingly~~ do any of the 331  
following: 332

(a) Make a contribution, to a candidate, campaign 333  
committee, political action committee, political contributing 334  
entity, legislative campaign fund, state candidate fund, 335  
political party, or separate segregated fund or to any committee 336  
described in section 3517.12 of the Revised Code; 337

(b) Make an expenditure, or independent expenditure or 338  
promise, either expressly or implicitly, to make a contribution, 339  
expenditure, or independent expenditure in support of or 340

opposition to a candidate for any elective office in this state, 341  
including an office of a political party, or in support of or 342  
opposition to any initiative or referendum concerning which a 343  
committee exists as described in section 3517.12 of the Revised 344  
Code; 345

(c) Promise, either expressly or implicitly, to make a 346  
contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure described 347  
in division (W) (1) (a) or (b) of this section. 348

(2) No candidate, campaign committee, political action 349  
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 350  
fund, state candidate fund, political party, or separate 351  
segregated fund and no committee described in section 3517.12 of 352  
the Revised Code shall knowingly solicit or accept a 353  
contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure from a 354  
foreign national. The secretary of state may direct any 355  
candidate, committee, entity, fund, or party that knowingly 356  
accepts a contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure 357  
in violation of this division to return the contribution, 358  
expenditure, or independent expenditure or, if it is not 359  
possible to return the contribution, expenditure, or independent 360  
expenditure, then to return instead the value of it, to the 361  
contributor. 362

(3) As used in division (W) of this section, "foreign 363  
national" has the same meaning as in section 441e(b) of the 364  
Federal Election Campaign Act. 365

(X) (1) No state or county political party shall transfer 366  
any moneys from its restricted fund to any account of the 367  
political party into which contributions may be made or from 368  
which contributions or expenditures may be made. 369

(2) (a) No state or county political party shall deposit a contribution or contributions that it receives into its restricted fund.

(b) No state or county political party shall make a contribution or an expenditure from its restricted fund.

(3) (a) No corporation or labor organization shall make a gift or gifts from the corporation's or labor organization's money or property aggregating more than ten thousand dollars to any one state or county political party for the party's restricted fund in a calendar year.

(b) No state or county political party shall accept a gift or gifts for the party's restricted fund aggregating more than ten thousand dollars from any one corporation or labor organization in a calendar year.

(4) No state or county political party shall transfer any moneys in the party's restricted fund to any other state or county political party.

(5) No state or county political party shall knowingly fail to file a statement required under section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code.

(Y) The administrator of workers' compensation and the employees of the bureau of workers' compensation shall not conduct any business with or award any contract, other than one awarded by competitive bidding, for the purchase of goods costing more than five hundred dollars or services costing more than five hundred dollars to any individual, partnership, association, including, without limitation, a professional association organized under Chapter 1785. of the Revised Code, estate, or trust, if the individual has made, or the

individual's spouse has made, or any partner, shareholder, 399  
administrator, executor, or trustee, or the spouses of any of 400  
those individuals has made, as an individual, within the two 401  
previous calendar years, one or more contributions totaling in 402  
excess of one thousand dollars to the campaign committee of the 403  
governor or lieutenant governor or to the campaign committee of 404  
any candidate for the office of governor or lieutenant governor. 405

(Z) The administrator of workers' compensation and the 406  
employees of the bureau of workers' compensation shall not 407  
conduct business with or award any contract, other than one 408  
awarded by competitive bidding, for the purchase of goods 409  
costing more than five hundred dollars or services costing more 410  
than five hundred dollars to a corporation or business trust, 411  
except a professional association organized under Chapter 1785. 412  
of the Revised Code, if an owner of more than twenty per cent of 413  
the corporation or business trust, or the spouse of the owner, 414  
has made, as an individual, within the two previous calendar 415  
years, taking into consideration only owners for all of such 416  
period, one or more contributions totaling in excess of one 417  
thousand dollars to the campaign committee of the governor or 418  
lieutenant governor or to the campaign committee of any 419  
candidate for the office of governor or lieutenant governor. 420

**Section 2.** That existing section 3517.13 of the Revised 421  
Code is hereby repealed. 422

**Section 3.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 423  
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 424  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 425  
allow its provisions to be effective for purposes of the 2024 426  
general election. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate 427  
effect. 428