

**As Passed by the Senate**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**Am. S. B. No. 206**

**Senator LaRose**

**Cosponsors: Senators Gardner, Hite, Coley, Lehner, Tavares, Eklund, Obhof,  
Skindell, Thomas, Uecker, Yuko**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.106, 1  
3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code to 2  
allow certain campaign committees and other 3  
entities to file campaign finance statements 4  
electronically and to require the Secretary of 5  
State to make the information in those 6  
electronic statements available online. 7

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.106, 8  
3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code be amended to read as 9  
follows: 10

**Sec. 3517.10.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 11  
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 12  
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 13  
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 14  
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 15  
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 16  
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on 17  
a form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 18

transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 19  
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made 20  
under penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail 21  
the contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of 22  
the following dates: 23

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 24  
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 25  
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 26  
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 27  
before the election; 28

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect 29  
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 30  
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 31  
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh 32  
day before the filing of the statement; 33

(3) The last business day of January of every year to 34  
reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from 35  
the close of business on the last day reflected in the last 36  
previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on 37  
the last day of December of the previous year; 38

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 39  
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 40  
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 41  
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last 42  
day of June of that year. 43

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 44  
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 45  
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 46  
committee's candidate. 47

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this section shall not be required of any campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity that has received contributions of less than one thousand dollars and has made expenditures of less than one thousand dollars at the close of business on the twentieth day before the election. Those contributions and expenditures shall be reported in the statement required under division (A)(2) of this section.

If an election to select candidates to appear on the general election ballot is held within sixty days before a general election, the campaign committee of a successful candidate in the earlier election may file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section for the general election instead of the statement required by division (A)(2) of this section for the earlier election if the pregeneral election statement reflects the status of contributions and expenditures for the period twenty days before the earlier election to twenty days before the general election.

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section.

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be required for any year in which a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral election statement under division (A)(2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A)(3) of this section may be filed, at the option of the campaign committee,

political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 78  
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No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in this state, shall be required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section. 80  
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Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and the campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The campaign committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial office is required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this section if that campaign committee receives, during that period, contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars. 85  
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No statement under division (A) (4) of this section shall be required of a campaign committee, a political action committee, a legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a political contributing entity for any year in which the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity is required to file a postprimary election statement under division (A) (2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A) (4) of this section may be filed at the option of the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 94  
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No statement under division (A) (3) or (4) of this section shall be required if the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 105  
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political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 108  
received and no expenditures that it has made since the last 109  
date reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, 110  
the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 111  
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 112  
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed 113  
under this section and made under penalty of election 114  
falsification, on the date required in division (A) (3) or (4) of 115  
this section, as applicable. 116

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file 117  
a monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 118  
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 119  
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 120  
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 121  
statement not later than three business days after the last day 122  
of the month covered by the statement. During the period 123  
beginning on the nineteenth day before the general election in 124  
which a statewide candidate seeks election to office and 125  
extending through the day of that general election, each time 126  
the campaign committee of the joint candidates for the offices 127  
of governor and lieutenant governor or of a candidate for the 128  
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 129  
state, or attorney general receives a contribution from a 130  
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 131  
received from that contributor during that period to equal or 132  
exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign committee 133  
of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the 134  
supreme court receives a contribution from a contributor that 135  
causes the aggregate amount of contributions received from that 136  
contributor during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, 137  
the campaign committee shall file a two-business-day statement 138

reflecting that contribution. Contributions reported on a two- 139  
business-day statement required to be filed by a campaign 140  
committee of a statewide candidate in a primary election shall 141  
also be included in the postprimary election statement required 142  
to be filed by that campaign committee under division (A) (2) of 143  
this section. A two-business-day statement required by this 144  
paragraph shall be filed not later than two business days after 145  
receipt of the contribution. The statements required by this 146  
paragraph shall be filed in addition to any other statements 147  
required by this section. 148

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 149  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 150  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C) (6) (b) 151  
and (D) (6) of this section and division ~~(H)~~ (F) (1) of section 152  
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 153  
statements by electronic means of transmission, a campaign 154  
committee of a statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day 155  
statement under the preceding paragraph by electronic means of 156  
transmission if the campaign committee is required to file a 157  
pre-election, postelection, or monthly statement of 158  
contributions and expenditures by electronic means of 159  
transmission under this section or section 3517.106 of the 160  
Revised Code. 161

If a campaign committee or political action committee has 162  
no balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 163  
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 164  
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 165  
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 166  
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a 167  
final statement of contributions and a final statement of 168  
expenditures, if contributions have been received or 169

expenditures made since the period reflected in its last 170  
previously filed statement. 171

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (7) of 172  
this section, each statement required by division (A) of this 173  
section shall contain the following information: 174

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 175  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 176  
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 177  
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 178  
and expenditure statement; 179

(2) (a) In the case of a campaign committee, the 180  
candidate's full name and address; 181

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 182  
registration number assigned to the committee under division (D) 183  
(1) of this section. 184

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be 185  
a general, primary, or special election; 186

(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall 187  
include the following information: 188

(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 189

(b) (i) The full name and address of each person, political 190  
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 191  
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom 192  
contributions are received and the registration number assigned 193  
to the political action committee under division (D) (1) of this 194  
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not 195  
apply to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a 196  
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to 197

a committee recognized by a state or local committee as its 198  
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this 199  
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be 200  
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address 201  
the contributor provided under division (E)(1) of this section. 202

(ii) If a political action committee, political 203  
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 204  
party that is required to file campaign finance statements by 205  
electronic means of transmission under section 3517.106 of the 206  
Revised Code or a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 207  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 208  
receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one 209  
hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, 210  
if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 211  
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any; 212

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 213  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 214  
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 215  
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 216  
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 217  
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 218  
(A)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 219  
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization 220  
of which the employees are members, if any. 221

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other 222  
than money; 223

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 224

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and 225  
expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a 226



contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or 227  
less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a 228  
contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the 229  
Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries 230  
of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from 231  
the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars 232  
or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total 233  
contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall 234  
include a description of and the value of each in-kind 235  
contribution received at that activity from any person who made 236  
one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded 237  
two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, 238  
together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with 239  
that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, 240  
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 241  
contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from 242  
each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one 243  
social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts 244  
deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the 245  
wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five 246  
dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing 247  
association that is recognized by a state or local committee of 248  
a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a 249  
contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by 250  
members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or 251  
address of any members who paid those dues. 252

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized 253  
separately from all other contributions. The information 254  
required under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided 255  
for all other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other 256  
income" means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 257

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected officer, if a person doing business with the state elected officer in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution to the campaign committee of that officer, the information required under division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that contribution, which shall be filed together with and considered a part of the committee's statement of contributions as required under division (A) of this section but shall be filed on a separate form provided by the secretary of state. As used in this division:

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in section 3517.092 of the Revised Code.

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer of an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or services, if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than five thousand dollars during a calendar year.

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the following information:

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure;

(b) The full name and address of each person, political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the political action committee under division (D)(1) of this section;

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was made;

(d) The amount of each expenditure. 287

(C) (1) The statement of contributions and expenditures 288  
shall be signed by the person completing the form. If a 289  
statement of contributions and expenditures is filed by 290  
electronic means of transmission pursuant to this section or 291  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the electronic signature 292  
of the person who executes the statement and transmits the 293  
statement by electronic means of transmission, as provided in 294  
division ~~(H)~~ (F) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall 295  
be attached to or associated with the statement and shall be 296  
binding on all persons and for all purposes under the campaign 297  
finance reporting law as if the signature had been handwritten 298  
in ink on a printed form. 299

(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of 300  
election falsification, shall include with it a list of each 301  
anonymous contribution, the circumstances under which it was 302  
received, and the reason it cannot be attributed to a specific 303  
donor. 304

(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate 305  
who holds public office shall contain a designation of each 306  
contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under 307  
the candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space 308  
provided in the statement, the person filing the statement shall 309  
affirm that each such contribution was voluntarily made. 310

(4) A campaign committee that did not receive 311  
contributions or make expenditures in connection with the 312  
nomination or election of its candidate shall file a statement 313  
to that effect, on a form prescribed under this section and made 314  
under penalty of election falsification, on the date required in 315  
division (A) (2) of this section. 316

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to 317  
 become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become 318  
 certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for 319  
 placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or 320  
 special election to be held in this state, and who, at any time 321  
 prior to or after an election, receives contributions or makes 322  
 expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive 323  
 contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing 324  
 about the person's nomination or election to public office, 325  
 shall file the statement or statements prescribed by this 326  
 section and a termination statement, if applicable. Division (C) 327  
 (5) of this section does not apply to any person with respect to 328  
 an election to the offices of member of a county or state 329  
 central committee, presidential elector, or delegate to a 330  
 national convention or conference of a political party. 331

(6) (a) The statements required to be filed under this 332  
 section shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign 333  
 committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 334  
 fund, political party, or political contributing entity and the 335  
 disposition intended to be made of that balance. 336

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for 337  
 all statements required to be filed under this section and shall 338  
 furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 339  
 counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 340  
 those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall 341  
 prescribe the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file 342  
 structure for statements required or permitted to be filed by 343  
 electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state or a 344  
board of elections under division (A) of this section, ~~divisions~~ 345  
division (E), ~~(F), and (G)~~ of section 3517.106, division (D) of 346  
 section 3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, division 347

(C) of section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 348  
3517.1014 of the Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this 349  
section, ~~divisions~~ division (E), ~~(F), and (G)~~ of section 350  
3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, division (B) of 351  
section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 3517.1013, and 352  
divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code, 353  
the statements required to be stored on computer by the 354  
secretary of state under division (B) of section 3517.106 of the 355  
Revised Code shall be filed in whatever format the secretary of 356  
state considers necessary to enable the secretary of state to 357  
store the information contained in the statements on computer. 358  
Any such format shall be of a type and nature that is readily 359  
available to whoever is required to file the statements in that 360  
format. 361

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for 362  
training regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by 363  
electronic means of transmission and regarding associated 364  
technologies for candidates, campaign committees, political 365  
action committees, legislative campaign funds, political 366  
parties, or political contributing entities, for individuals, 367  
partnerships, or other entities, for persons making 368  
disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or airing 369  
electioneering communications, or for treasurers of transition 370  
funds, required or permitted to file statements by electronic 371  
means of transmission under this section or section 3517.105, 372  
3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the 373  
Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the secretary of state, 374  
training in these areas is necessary, the secretary of state 375  
shall arrange for the provision of voluntary training programs 376  
for candidates, campaign committees, political action 377  
committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, or 378

political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 379  
and other entities, for persons making disbursements to pay the 380  
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 381  
communications, or for treasurers of transition funds, as 382  
appropriate. 383

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 384  
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 385  
the information required by divisions (B) (1) to (4), (C) (2), 386  
and, if appropriate, (C) (3) of this section. Each statement 387  
shall be signed as required by division (C) (1) of this section. 388

(D) (1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 389  
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action 390  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 391  
political contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and 392  
shall file, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, a 393  
designation of that appointment, including the full name and 394  
address of the treasurer and of the campaign committee, 395  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 396  
party, or political contributing entity. That designation shall 397  
be filed with the official with whom the campaign committee, 398  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 399  
party, or political contributing entity is required to file 400  
statements under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name 401  
of a campaign committee shall include at least the last name of 402  
the campaign committee's candidate. If two or more candidates 403  
are the beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under 404  
division (B) of section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name 405  
of the campaign committee shall include at least the last name 406  
of each candidate who is a beneficiary of that campaign 407  
committee. The secretary of state shall assign a registration 408  
number to each political action committee that files a 409

designation of the appointment of a treasurer under this 410  
division if the political action committee is required by 411  
division (A) (1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code to file 412  
the statements prescribed by this section with the secretary of 413  
state. 414

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D) (1) of this 415  
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 416  
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 417

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 418  
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all 419  
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 420  
separate from a personal or business account of the candidate or 421  
campaign committee. 422

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all 423  
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 424  
separate from all other funds. 425

(c) A state or county political party may establish a 426  
state candidate fund that is separate from an account that 427  
contains the public moneys received from the Ohio political 428  
party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and from 429  
all other funds. A state or county political party may deposit 430  
into its state candidate fund any amounts of monetary 431  
contributions that are made to or accepted by the political 432  
party subject to the applicable limitations, if any, prescribed 433  
in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. A state or county 434  
political party shall deposit all other monetary contributions 435  
received by the party into one or more accounts that are 436  
separate from its state candidate fund and from its account that 437  
contains the public moneys received from the Ohio political 438  
party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 439

(d) Each state political party shall have only one 440  
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general 441  
assembly. Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds 442  
or accounts of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is 443  
authorized to receive contributions and make expenditures for 444  
the primary purpose of furthering the election of candidates who 445  
are members of that political party to the house of the general 446  
assembly with which that legislative campaign fund is 447  
associated. Each legislative campaign fund shall be administered 448  
and controlled in a manner designated by the caucus. As used in 449  
this division, "caucus" has the same meaning as in section 450  
3517.01 of the Revised Code and includes, as an ex officio 451  
member, the chairperson of the state political party with which 452  
the caucus is associated or that chairperson's designee. 453

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars 454  
shall be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of 455  
the expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of 456  
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of 457  
the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division (D) 458  
(4) of this section. 459

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as 460  
the case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed 461  
under this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for 462  
a period of at least six years. All statements filed under this 463  
section shall be open to public inspection in the office where 464  
they are filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of 465  
at least six years after the year in which they are filed. 466

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 467  
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 468  
following: 469



(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state or a board of elections pursuant to this section or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code;

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in the statements described in division (D) (6) (a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in those statements for at least ten years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means of transmission.

(7) (a) The secretary of state, pursuant to division ~~(F)~~ (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available online to the public through the internet the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in all of the following documents:

(i) All statements, all addenda, amendments, or other corrections to statements, and all amended statements filed with the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code;

(ii) All statements filed with a board of elections by electronic means of transmission, and all addenda, amendments,

corrections, and amended versions of those statements, filed 500  
with the board under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) 501  
(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1012, or 502  
3517.11 of the Revised Code. ~~The~~ 503

(b) The secretary of state may remove the information from 504  
the internet after a reasonable period of time. 505

(E) (1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 506  
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 507  
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 508  
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or 509  
in connection with any ballot issue or question at any election 510  
held or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 511  
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 512  
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 513  
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 514  
division (D) (1) of this section to the recipient of the 515  
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 516

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds 517  
one hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 518  
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 519  
party or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 520  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly shall 521  
provide the name of the individual's current employer, if any, 522  
or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 523  
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, to 524  
the recipient of the contribution at the time the contribution 525  
is made. Sections 3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not 526  
apply to division (E) (2) of this section. 527

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised 528  
its best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 529

required under divisions (B) (4) (b) (ii) and (iii) of this 530  
section, that committee is considered to have met the 531  
requirements of those divisions. A campaign committee shall not 532  
be considered to have exercised its best efforts unless, in 533  
connection with written solicitations, it regularly includes a 534  
written request for the information required under division (B) 535  
(4) (b) (ii) of this section from the contributor or the 536  
information required under division (B) (4) (b) (iii) of this 537  
section from whoever transmits the contribution. 538

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to 539  
make a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full 540  
name and address of the committee and the registration number 541  
assigned to the committee under division (D) (1) of this section. 542

(F) As used in this section: 543

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (1) of 544  
this section, "address" means all of the following if they 545  
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and 546  
number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and 547  
zip code as used in a person's post-office address, but not 548  
post-office box. 549

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (1) of 550  
this section, if an address is required in this section, a post- 551  
office box and office, room, or suite number may be included in 552  
addition to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or 553  
highway name and number. 554

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 555  
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 556  
fund, political party, or political contributing entity may use 557  
the business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 558

treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 559  
 political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 560  
 party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition 561  
 to that address. 562

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's 563  
 reporting of contributions on a statement of contributions 564  
 received under division (B) (4) of this section, "address" has 565  
 one of the following meanings at the option of the campaign 566  
 committee: 567

(i) The same meaning as in division (F) (1) (a) of this 568  
 section; 569

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the 570  
 contributor's post-office box number and city or village, state, 571  
 and zip code as used in the contributor's post-office address. 572

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this 573  
 section of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following 574  
 if they exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name 575  
 and number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, 576  
 and zip code as used in a person's post-office address, or post- 577  
 office box. If an address concerning any expenditure is required 578  
 in this section, a campaign committee, political action 579  
 committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 580  
 political contributing entity may use the business or residence 581  
 address of its treasurer or deputy treasurer or its post-office 582  
 box number. 583

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for 584  
 the offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate 585  
 for the office of secretary of state, auditor of state, 586  
 treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state board 587

of education, chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of	588
the supreme court.	589

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for	590
the office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the	591
court of common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas,	592
sheriff, county recorder, county engineer, county commissioner,	593
prosecuting attorney, or coroner.	594

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever	595
and in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be	596
reported under this section and shall be reported pursuant to	597
division (B) (2) (a) or (C) (2) (a) of section 3517.105 of the	598
Revised Code.	599

(H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (2) of	600
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and	601
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign	602
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or	603
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five	604
hundred dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect,	605
under penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the	606
statement required by division (A) (2) of this section. The	607
statement shall indicate the total amount of contributions	608
received and the total amount of expenditures made during those	609
combined reporting periods.	610

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary	611
election, if either the total contributions received by or the	612
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee	613
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral	614
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars,	615
the campaign committee may file the statement under division (H)	616
(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first	617

statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 618  
general election shall reflect all contributions received and 619  
all expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary 620  
election periods. 621

(3) Divisions (H) (1) and (2) of this section do not apply 622  
if a campaign committee receives contributions or makes 623  
expenditures prior to the first day of January of the year of 624  
the election at which the candidate seeks nomination or election 625  
to office or if the campaign committee does not file a 626  
termination statement with its postprimary election statement in 627  
the case of an unsuccessful primary election candidate or with 628  
its postgeneral election statement in the case of other 629  
candidates. 630

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 631  
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 632  
business from any funds of the partnership or other 633  
unincorporated business, all of the following apply: 634

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 635  
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 636  
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 637  
member making the contribution. 638

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 639  
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 640  
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 641  
business, provided that the information includes one of the 642  
following: 643

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 644  
date of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that 645  
the total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of 646

the partners, owners, or members; or 647

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 648  
date of the contribution or contributions who is participating 649  
in the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 650  
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 651  
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 652  
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 653  
the contribution. 654

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, 655  
the contribution shall be considered to have been made by the 656  
partner, owner, or member reported under division (I)(1) of this 657  
section. 658

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 659  
owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 660  
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other 661  
unincorporated business unless the recipient reports the 662  
contribution under division (I)(1) of this section together with 663  
the information provided under division (I)(2) of this section. 664

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 665  
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 666  
partnership or other unincorporated business. 667

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership 668  
or other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited 669  
to, a cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, 670  
a limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a 671  
limited liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 672

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at 673  
any given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 674  
candidate or holds office. 675

(K) (1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment 676  
of a treasurer under division (D) (1) of this section, the 677  
campaign committee of any candidate for an elected municipal 678  
office that pays an annual amount of compensation of five 679  
thousand dollars or less, the campaign committee of any 680  
candidate for member of a board of education except member of 681  
the state board of education, or the campaign committee of any 682  
candidate for township trustee or township fiscal officer may 683  
sign, under penalty of election falsification, a certificate 684  
attesting that the committee will not accept contributions 685  
during an election period that exceed in the aggregate two 686  
thousand dollars from all contributors and one hundred dollars 687  
from any one individual, and that the campaign committee will 688  
not make expenditures during an election period that exceed in 689  
the aggregate two thousand dollars. 690

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 691  
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 692  
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and 693  
petition, a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to 694  
be a write-in candidate. 695

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K) (3) of 696  
this section, a campaign committee that files a certificate 697  
under division (K) (1) of this section is not required to file 698  
the statements required by division (A) of this section. 699

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K) (1) 700  
of this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the 701  
limitations described in that division during an election 702  
period, the certificate is void and thereafter the campaign 703  
committee shall file the statements required by division (A) of 704  
this section. If the campaign committee has not previously filed 705



a statement, then on the first statement the campaign committee 706  
is required to file under division (A) of this section after the 707  
committee's certificate is void, the committee shall report all 708  
contributions received and expenditures made from the time the 709  
candidate filed the candidate's declaration of candidacy and 710  
petition, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a 711  
write-in candidate. 712

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 713  
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 714  
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 715  
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 716  
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 717  
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 718  
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 719  
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 720

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 721  
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other 722  
assessments of its members or from its officers, shareholders, 723  
and employees may report the aggregate amount of contributions 724  
received from those contributors and the number of individuals 725  
making those contributions, for each filing period under 726  
divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, rather than 727  
reporting information as required under division (B) (4) of this 728  
section, including, when applicable, the name of the current 729  
employer, if any, of a contributor whose contribution exceeds 730  
one hundred dollars or, if such a contributor is self-employed, 731  
the contributor's occupation and the name of the contributor's 732  
business, if any. Division (B) (4) of this section applies to a 733  
political contributing entity with regard to contributions it 734  
receives from all other contributors. 735

**Sec. 3517.105.** (A) (1) As used in this section, "public political advertising" means advertising to the general public through a broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, poster, yard sign, or outdoor advertising facility, by direct mail, or by any other means of advertising to the general public.

(2) For purposes of this section and section 3517.20 of the Revised Code, a person is a member of a political action committee if the person makes one or more contributions to that political action committee, and a person is a member of a political contributing entity if the person makes one or more contributions to, or pays dues, membership fees, or other assessments to, that political contributing entity.

(B) (1) Whenever a candidate, a campaign committee, a political action committee or political contributing entity with ten or more members, or a legislative campaign fund makes an independent expenditure, or whenever a political action committee or political contributing entity with fewer than ten members makes an independent expenditure in excess of one hundred dollars for a local candidate, in excess of two hundred fifty dollars for a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly, or in excess of five hundred dollars for a statewide candidate, for the purpose of financing communications advocating the election or defeat of an identified candidate or solicits without the candidate's express consent a contribution for or against an identified candidate through public political advertising, a statement shall appear or be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner in the advertising that does both of the following:

(a) Clearly indicates that the communication or public political advertising is not authorized by the candidate or the

candidate's campaign committee; 766

(b) Clearly identifies the candidate, campaign committee, 767  
political action committee, political contributing entity, or 768  
legislative campaign fund that has paid for the communication or 769  
public political advertising in accordance with section 3517.20 770  
of the Revised Code. 771

(2) (a) Whenever any campaign committee, legislative 772  
campaign fund, political action committee, political 773  
contributing entity, or political party makes an independent 774  
expenditure in support of or opposition to any candidate, the 775  
committee, entity, fund, or party shall report the independent 776  
expenditure and identify the candidate on a statement prescribed 777  
by the secretary of state and filed by the committee, entity, 778  
fund, or party as part of its statement of contributions and 779  
expenditures pursuant to division (A) of section 3517.10 and 780  
division (A) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 781

(b) Whenever any individual, partnership, or other entity, 782  
except a corporation, labor organization, campaign committee, 783  
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, political 784  
contributing entity, or political party, makes one or more 785  
independent expenditures in support of or opposition to any 786  
candidate, the individual, partnership, or other entity shall 787  
file with the secretary of state in the case of a statewide 788  
candidate, or with the board of elections in the county in which 789  
the candidate files the candidate's petitions for nomination or 790  
election for district or local office, not later than the dates 791  
specified in divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 792  
3517.10 of the Revised Code, and, except as otherwise provided 793  
in that section, a statement itemizing all independent 794  
expenditures made during the period since the close of business 795

on the last day reflected in the last previously filed such 796  
statement, if any. The statement shall be made on a form 797  
prescribed by the secretary of state or shall be filed by 798  
electronic means of transmission pursuant to division ~~(C)~~(E) of 799  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code as authorized or required 800  
by that division. The statement shall indicate the date and the 801  
amount of each independent expenditure and the candidate on 802  
whose behalf it was made and shall be made under penalty of 803  
election falsification. 804

(C) (1) Whenever a corporation, labor organization, 805  
campaign committee, political action committee with ten or more 806  
members, or legislative campaign fund makes an independent 807  
expenditure, or whenever a political action committee with fewer 808  
than ten members makes an independent expenditure in excess of 809  
one hundred dollars for a local ballot issue or question, or in 810  
excess of five hundred dollars for a statewide ballot issue or 811  
question, for the purpose of financing communications advocating 812  
support of or opposition to an identified ballot issue or 813  
question or solicits without the express consent of the ballot 814  
issue committee a contribution for or against an identified 815  
ballot issue or question through public political advertising, a 816  
statement shall appear or be presented in a clear and 817  
conspicuous manner in the advertising that does both of the 818  
following: 819

(a) Clearly indicates that the communication or public 820  
political advertising is not authorized by the identified ballot 821  
issue committee; 822

(b) Clearly identifies the corporation, labor 823  
organization, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, or 824  
political action committee that has paid for the communication 825

or public political advertising in accordance with section 826  
3517.20 of the Revised Code. 827

(2) (a) Whenever any corporation, labor organization, 828  
campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, 829  
or political action committee makes an independent expenditure 830  
in support of or opposition to any ballot issue or question, the 831  
corporation or labor organization shall report the independent 832  
expenditure in accordance with division (C) of section 3599.03 833  
of the Revised Code, and the campaign committee, legislative 834  
campaign fund, political party, or political action committee 835  
shall report the independent expenditure and identify the ballot 836  
issue or question on a statement prescribed by the secretary of 837  
state and filed by the committee, fund, or party as part of its 838  
statement of contributions and expenditures pursuant to division 839  
(A) of section 3517.10 and division (A) of section 3517.11 of 840  
the Revised Code. 841

(b) Whenever any individual, partnership, or other entity, 842  
except a corporation, labor organization, campaign committee, 843  
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 844  
political party, makes one or more independent expenditures in 845  
excess of one hundred dollars in support of or opposition to any 846  
ballot issue or question, the individual, partnership, or other 847  
entity shall file with the secretary of state in the case of a 848  
statewide ballot issue or question, or with the board of 849  
elections in the county that certifies the issue or question for 850  
placement on the ballot in the case of a district or local issue 851  
or question, not later than the dates specified in divisions (A) 852  
(1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, 853  
and, except as otherwise provided in that section, a statement 854  
itemizing all independent expenditures made during the period 855  
since the close of business on the last day reflected in the 856

last previously filed such statement, if any. The statement 857  
shall be made on a form prescribed by the secretary of state or 858  
shall be filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to 859  
division ~~(C)~~(E) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code as 860  
authorized or required by that division. The statement shall 861  
indicate the date and the amount of each independent expenditure 862  
and the ballot issue or question in support of or opposition to 863  
which it was made and shall be made under penalty of election 864  
falsification. 865

(3) No person, campaign committee, legislative campaign 866  
fund, political action committee, corporation, labor 867  
organization, or other organization or association shall use or 868  
cause to be used a false or fictitious name in making an 869  
independent expenditure in support of or opposition to any 870  
candidate or any ballot issue or question. A name is false or 871  
fictitious if the person, campaign committee, legislative 872  
campaign fund, political action committee, corporation, labor 873  
organization, or other organization or association does not 874  
actually exist or operate, if the corporation, labor 875  
organization, or other organization or association has failed to 876  
file a fictitious name or other registration with the secretary 877  
of state, if it is required to do so, or if the person, campaign 878  
committee, legislative campaign fund, or political action 879  
committee has failed to file a designation of the appointment of 880  
a treasurer, if it is required to do so by division (D)(1) of 881  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 882

(D) Any expenditure by a political party for the purpose 883  
of financing communications advocating the election or defeat of 884  
a candidate for judicial office shall be deemed to be an 885  
independent expenditure subject to the provisions of this 886  
section. 887

**Sec. 3517.106.** (A) As used in this section: 888

(1) "Statewide office" means any of the offices of 889  
governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of 890  
state, treasurer of state, attorney general, chief justice of 891  
the supreme court, and justice of the supreme court. 892

(2) "Addendum to a statement" includes an amendment or 893  
other correction to that statement. 894

(B) ~~(1)~~ The secretary of state shall store all of the 895  
following information on computer ~~the~~ : 896

(1) The information contained in statements of 897  
contributions and expenditures and monthly statements required 898  
to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code and in 899  
statements of independent expenditures required to be filed 900  
under section 3517.105 of the Revised Code ~~by any of the~~ 901  
~~following:~~ 902

~~(a) The campaign committees of candidates for statewide~~ 903  
~~office;~~ 904

~~(b) The political action committees and political~~ 905  
~~contributing entities described in division (A) (1) of section~~ 906  
~~3517.11 of the Revised Code;~~ 907

~~(c) Legislative campaign funds;~~ 908

~~(d) State political parties;~~ 909

~~(e) Individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor~~ 910  
~~organizations, or other entities that make independent~~ 911  
~~expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide~~ 912  
~~candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question;~~ 913

~~(f) The campaign committees of candidates for the office~~ 914

~~of member of the general assembly;~~ 915

~~(g) County political parties, with respect to their state~~ 916  
~~candidate funds. with the secretary of state and the information~~ 917  
~~transmitted to the secretary of state by boards of elections~~ 918  
~~under division (E) (2) of this section;~~ 919

(2) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 920  
information contained in disclosure of electioneering 921  
communications statements required to be filed under section 922  
3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 923

(3) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 924  
information contained in deposit and disbursement statements 925  
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 926  
under section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 927

(4) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 928  
gift and disbursement information contained in statements 929  
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 930  
under section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code. 931

(5) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 932  
information contained in donation and disbursement statements 933  
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 934  
under section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 935

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall make available to the 936  
campaign committees, political action committees, political 937  
contributing entities, legislative campaign funds, political 938  
parties, individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor 939  
organizations, treasurers of transition funds, and other 940  
~~entities described in division (B) of this section that are~~ 941  
permitted or required to file statements by electronic means of 942  
transmission, and to members of the news media and other 943



interested persons, for a reasonable fee, computer programs that 944  
are compatible with the secretary of state's method of storing 945  
the information contained in the statements. 946

(2) The secretary of state shall make the information 947  
required to be stored under division (B) of this section 948  
available on computer at the secretary of state's office so 949  
that, to the maximum extent feasible, individuals may obtain at 950  
the secretary of state's office any part or all of that 951  
information for any given year, subject to the limitation 952  
expressed in division (D) of this section. 953

(D) The secretary of state shall keep the information 954  
stored on computer under division (B) of this section for at 955  
least six years. 956

(E) (1) Subject to division ~~(H)~~ (J) of this section and 957  
subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, 958  
and verified the successful operation of any system the 959  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division ~~(H)~~ (F) (1) of 960  
this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 961  
3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 962  
statements by electronic means of transmission, ~~the each of the~~ 963  
following entities shall be permitted or required to file 964  
statements by electronic means of transmission, as applicable: 965

(a) The campaign committee of each candidate for statewide 966  
office may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 967  
the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the 968  
total amount of the contributions received or the total amount 969  
of the expenditures made by the campaign committee for the 970  
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 971  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 972  
dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 973

transmission. 974

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 975  
member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a 976  
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals may file 977  
the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 978  
in accordance with division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the 979  
Revised Code or by electronic means of transmission to the 980  
office of the secretary of state or, if the total amount of the 981  
contributions received by the campaign committee for the 982  
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 983  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 984  
dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 985  
transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 986

(c) A campaign committee of a candidate for an office 987  
other than a statewide office, the office of member of the 988  
general assembly, or the office of judge of a court of appeals 989  
may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the 990  
Revised Code by electronic means of transmission to the 991  
secretary of state or the board of elections, as applicable. 992

(d) A political action committee and a political 993  
contributing entity described in division (A)(1) of section 994  
3517.11 of the Revised Code, a legislative campaign fund, and a 995  
state political party may file the statements prescribed by 996  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of 997  
transmission or, if the total amount of the contributions 998  
received or the total amount of the expenditures made by the 999  
political action committee, political contributing entity, 1000  
legislative campaign fund, or state political party for the 1001  
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 1002  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 1003

dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 1004  
transmission. 1005

(e) A county political party shall file the statements 1006  
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with respect 1007  
to its state candidate fund by electronic means of transmission 1008  
to the office of the secretary of state. 1009

(f) A county political party may file all other statements 1010  
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic 1011  
means of transmission to the board of elections. 1012

(g) A political action committee or political contributing 1013  
entity described in division (A) (3) of section 3517.11 of the 1014  
Revised Code may file the statements prescribed by section 1015  
3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission 1016  
to the board of elections. 1017

(h) Any individual, partnership, or other entity that 1018  
makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a 1019  
statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question as 1020  
provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 1021  
of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in that 1022  
division by electronic means of transmission or, if the total 1023  
amount of independent expenditures made during the reporting 1024  
period under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall 1025  
file the statement specified in that division by electronic 1026  
means of transmission. 1027

(i) Any individual, partnership, or other entity that 1028  
makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a 1029  
candidate or ballot issue other than a statewide candidate or a 1030  
statewide ballot issue as provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) 1031  
(2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the 1032

statement specified in that division by electronic means of 1033  
transmission to the board of elections. 1034

(2) A board of elections that receives a statement by 1035  
electronic means of transmission shall transmit that statement 1036  
to the secretary of state within five business days after 1037  
receiving the statement. If the board receives an addendum or an 1038  
amended statement from an entity that filed a statement with the 1039  
board by electronic means of transmission, the board shall 1040  
transmit the addendum or amended statement to the secretary of 1041  
state not later than the close of business on the day the board 1042  
received the addendum or amended statement. 1043

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in ~~this division~~ (E) 1044  
(3) (b) of this section, within five business days after a 1045  
~~statement filed by a campaign committee of a candidate for~~ 1046  
~~statewide office under division (E) (1) of this section~~ is 1047  
received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means 1048  
of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available 1049  
online to the public through the internet, as provided in 1050  
division ~~(F)~~ (G) of this section, the contribution and 1051  
expenditure information in that statement. ~~The~~ 1052

(b) The secretary of state shall not make available online 1053  
to the public through the internet any contribution or 1054  
expenditure information contained in a statement for any 1055  
candidate until the secretary of state is able to make available 1056  
online to the public through the internet the contribution and 1057  
expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1058  
office, or until the applicable filing deadline for that 1059  
statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As soon as the 1060  
secretary of state has available all of the contribution and 1061  
expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1062

office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline for a 1063  
statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of 1064  
state shall simultaneously make available online to the public 1065  
through the internet the information for all candidates for that 1066  
office. 1067

(4) (a) If a statement filed by electronic means of 1068  
transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the 1069  
examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy 1070  
pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1071  
Code, the ~~campaign committee entity that filed the statement~~ 1072  
shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to 1073  
the statement that provides the information necessary to 1074  
complete or correct the statement or, if required ~~by the~~ 1075  
~~secretary of state~~ under that division, an amended statement. 1076

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 1077  
receives ~~from a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide-~~ 1078  
~~office~~ an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by 1079  
electronic or other means of transmission ~~under this division or~~ 1080  
~~division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code,~~ the 1081  
secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure 1082  
information in the addendum or amended statement available 1083  
online to the public through the internet as provided in 1084  
division ~~(I)~~ (G) of this section. 1085

~~(2)~~ Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1086  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1087  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of 1088  
this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 1089  
3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 1090  
statements by electronic means of transmission, a political 1091  
action committee and a political contributing entity described 1092

~~in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, and a state political party may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount of the contributions received or the total amount of the expenditures made by the political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political party for the applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission.~~

~~Within five business days after a statement filed by a political action committee or a political contributing entity described in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that statement.~~

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from a political action committee or a political contributing entity described in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or amended statement available online to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.~~ 1123  
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~~(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, a county political party shall file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with respect to its state candidate fund by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state.~~ 1134  
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~~Within five business days after a statement filed by a county political party with respect to its state candidate fund is received by the secretary of state by electronic means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that statement.~~ 1144  
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~~If a statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and~~ 1151  
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~~accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, a county political party shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from a county political party an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic means of transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or amended statement available online to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.~~

~~(F) (1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code in accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code or by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state or, if the total amount of the contributions received by the campaign committee for the applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten~~



~~thousand dollars, shall file those statements by electronic~~ 1184  
~~means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state.~~ 1185

~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five~~ 1186  
~~business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of~~ 1187  
~~a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or~~ 1188  
~~a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a~~ 1189  
~~court of appeals is received by the secretary of state by~~ 1190  
~~electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of~~ 1191  
~~state shall make available online to the public through the~~ 1192  
~~internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the~~ 1193  
~~contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The~~ 1194  
~~secretary of state shall not make available online to the public~~ 1195  
~~through the internet any contribution or expenditure information~~ 1196  
~~contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary~~ 1197  
~~of state is able to make available online to the public through~~ 1198  
~~the internet the contribution and expenditure information for~~ 1199  
~~all candidates for a particular office, or until the applicable~~ 1200  
~~filing deadline for that statement has passed, whichever is~~ 1201  
~~sooner. As soon as the secretary of state has available all of~~ 1202  
~~the contribution and expenditure information for all candidates~~ 1203  
~~for a particular office, or as soon as the applicable filing~~ 1204  
~~deadline for a statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the~~ 1205  
~~secretary of state shall simultaneously make available online to~~ 1206  
~~the public through the internet the information for all~~ 1207  
~~candidates for that office.~~ 1208

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission~~ 1209  
~~is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of~~ 1210  
~~the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division~~ 1211  
~~(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign~~ 1212  
~~committee shall file by electronic means of transmission to the~~ 1213  
~~office of the secretary of state any addendum to the statement~~ 1214

~~that provides the information necessary to complete or correct~~ 1215  
~~the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under~~ 1216  
~~that division, an amended statement.~~ 1217

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state~~ 1218  
~~receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office~~ 1219  
~~of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a~~ 1220  
~~candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals an~~ 1221  
~~addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic~~ 1222  
~~or other means of transmission under this division or division~~ 1223  
~~(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary~~ 1224  
~~of state shall make the contribution and expenditure information~~ 1225  
~~in the addendum or amended statement available online to the~~ 1226  
~~public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this~~ 1227  
~~section.~~ 1228

~~(2)-(5)~~ If a campaign committee for the office of member 1229  
of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate 1230  
for the office of judge of a court of appeals files a statement, 1231  
~~addendum, or amended statement is not filed by electronic means~~ 1232  
~~of transmission to the office of the secretary of state but is~~ 1233  
~~filed by printed version only under division (A) (2) of section~~ 1234  
~~3517.11 of the Revised Code with the appropriate board of~~ 1235  
~~elections, the campaign committee of a candidate for the office~~ 1236  
~~of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a~~ 1237  
~~candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals shall~~ 1238  
~~file two copies of the printed version of the statement,~~ 1239  
~~addendum, or amended statement with the board of elections. The~~ 1240  
~~board of elections shall send one of those copies by certified~~ 1241  
~~mail or an electronic copy to the secretary of state before the~~ 1242  
~~close of business on the day the board of elections receives the~~ 1243  
~~statement, addendum, or amended statement.~~ 1244

~~(G) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, any individual, partnership, or other entity that makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question as provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in that division by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount of independent expenditures made during the reporting period under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file the statement specified in that division by electronic means of transmission.~~

~~Within five business days after a statement filed by an individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the expenditure information in that statement.~~

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual, partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity described in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure information in the addendum or amended statement available online to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.~~

~~(H)~~ (F) (1) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe one or more techniques by which a person who executes and transmits to the secretary of state or a board of elections by electronic means a statement of contributions and expenditures, a statement of independent expenditures, a disclosure of electioneering communications statement, a deposit and disbursement statement, a gift and disbursement statement, or a donation and disbursement statement, an addendum to any of those statements, an amended statement of contributions and expenditures, an amended statement of independent expenditures, an amended disclosure of electioneering communications statement, an amended deposit and disbursement statement, an amended gift and disbursement statement, or an amended donation and disbursement statement, under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall electronically sign the statement, addendum, or amended statement. Any technique prescribed by the secretary of state pursuant to this division shall create an electronic signature that satisfies all of the following:

(a) It is unique to the signer.

(b) It objectively identifies the signer. 1306

(c) It involves the use of a signature device or other 1307  
means or method that is under the sole control of the signer and 1308  
that cannot be readily duplicated or compromised. 1309

(d) It is created and linked to the electronic record to 1310  
which it relates in a manner that, if the record or signature is 1311  
intentionally or unintentionally changed after signing, the 1312  
electronic signature is invalidated. 1313

(2) An electronic signature prescribed by the secretary of 1314  
state under division ~~(H)~~(F) (1) of this section shall be attached 1315  
to or associated with the statement of contributions and 1316  
expenditures, the statement of independent expenditures, the 1317  
disclosure of electioneering communications statement, the 1318  
deposit and disbursement statement, the gift and disbursement 1319  
statement, or the donation and disbursement statement, the 1320  
addendum to any of those statements, the amended statement of 1321  
contributions and expenditures, the amended statement of 1322  
independent expenditures, the amended disclosure of 1323  
electioneering communications statement, the amended deposit and 1324  
disbursement statement, the amended gift and disbursement 1325  
statement, or the amended donation and disbursement statement 1326  
that is executed and transmitted by electronic means by the 1327  
person to whom the electronic signature is attributed. The 1328  
electronic signature that is attached to or associated with the 1329  
statement, addendum, or amended statement under this division 1330  
shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes under the 1331  
campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had been 1332  
handwritten in ink on a printed form. 1333

~~(I)~~(G) The secretary of state shall make all of the 1334  
following information available online to the public by any 1335

means that are searchable, viewable, and accessible through the internet: 1336  
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(1) The contribution and expenditure, the contribution and disbursement, the deposit and disbursement, the gift and disbursement, or the donation and disbursement information in all statements, all addenda to the statements, and all amended statements that are filed with the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code~~available online to the public by any means that are searchable, viewable, and accessible through the internet;~~ 1338  
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(2) The contribution and expenditure or the deposit and disbursement information in all statements that are filed with a board of elections by electronic means of transmission, and in all addenda to those statements and all amended versions of those statements, under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1012, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 1348  
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~~(J)~~(H) (1) As used in this division, "library" means a library that is open to the public and that is one of the following: 1354  
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(a) A library that is maintained and regulated under section 715.13 of the Revised Code; 1357  
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(b) A library that is created, maintained, and regulated under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code. 1359  
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(2) The secretary of state shall notify all libraries of the location on the internet at which the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 1361  
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disbursement information in campaign finance statements required 1365  
to be made available online to the public through the internet 1366  
pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(G) of this section may be accessed. 1367

If that location is part of the world wide web and if the 1368  
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web 1369  
location as required by this division, the library shall include 1370  
a link to that world wide web location on each internet- 1371  
connected computer it maintains that is accessible to the 1372  
public. 1373

(3) If the system the secretary of state prescribes for 1374  
the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of 1375  
transmission pursuant to division ~~(H)~~(F) (1) of this section and 1376  
divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1377  
Code includes filing those statements through the internet via 1378  
the world wide web, the secretary of state shall notify all 1379  
libraries of the world wide web location at which those 1380  
statements may be filed. 1381

If those statements may be filed through the internet via 1382  
the world wide web and if the secretary of state has notified a 1383  
library of that world wide web location as required by this 1384  
division, the library shall include a link to that world wide 1385  
web location on each internet-connected computer it maintains 1386  
that is accessible to the public. 1387

~~(K)~~(I) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint or 1388  
charge brought against any campaign committee, political action 1389  
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1390  
fund, or political party, any individual, partnership, or other 1391  
entity, any person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1392  
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or any 1393  
treasurer of a transition fund, for the failure to file by 1394

electronic means of transmission a campaign finance statement as 1395  
required by this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 1396  
3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 1397  
Code that all of the following apply to the campaign committee, 1398  
political action committee, political contributing entity, 1399  
legislative campaign fund, or political party, the individual, 1400  
partnership, or other entity, the person making disbursements to 1401  
pay the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 1402  
communications, or the treasurer of a transition fund that 1403  
failed to so file: 1404

(1) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1405  
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1406  
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1407  
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1408  
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1409  
treasurer of a transition fund attempted to file by electronic 1410  
means of transmission the required statement prior to the 1411  
deadline set forth in the applicable section. 1412

(2) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1413  
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1414  
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1415  
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1416  
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1417  
treasurer of a transition fund was unable to file by electronic 1418  
means of transmission due to an expected or unexpected shutdown 1419  
of the whole or part of the electronic campaign finance 1420  
statement-filing system, such as for maintenance or because of 1421  
hardware, software, or network connection failure. 1422

(3) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1423  
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1424



political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1425  
 the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1426  
 producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1427  
 treasurer of a transition fund filed by electronic means of 1428  
 transmission the required statement within a reasonable period 1429  
 of time after being unable to so file it under the circumstance 1430  
 described in division ~~(K)~~(I) (2) of this section. 1431

~~(H)~~(J) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules 1432  
 pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to permit a 1433  
 campaign committee of a candidate for statewide office that 1434  
 makes expenditures of less than twenty-five thousand dollars 1435  
 during the filing period or a campaign committee for the office 1436  
 of member of the general assembly or the office of judge of a 1437  
 court of appeals that would otherwise be required to file 1438  
 campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission 1439  
 under division (E) ~~or (F)~~ of this section to file those 1440  
 statements by paper with the office of the secretary of state. 1441  
 Those rules shall provide for all of the following: 1442

(a) An eligible campaign committee that wishes to file a 1443  
 campaign finance statement by paper instead of by electronic 1444  
 means of transmission shall file the statement on paper with the 1445  
 office of the secretary of state not sooner than twenty-four 1446  
 hours after the end of the filing period set forth in section 1447  
 3517.10 of the Revised Code that is covered by the applicable 1448  
 statement. 1449

(b) The statement shall be accompanied by a fee, the 1450  
 amount of which the secretary of state shall determine by rule. 1451  
 The amount of the fee established under this division shall not 1452  
 exceed the data entry and data verification costs the secretary 1453  
 of state will incur to convert the information on the statement 1454

to an electronic format as required under division ~~(I)~~(G) of 1455  
this section. 1456

(c) The secretary of state shall arrange for the 1457  
information in campaign finance statements filed pursuant to 1458  
division ~~(I)~~(J) of this section to be made available online to 1459  
the public through the internet in the same manner, and at the 1460  
same times, as information is made available under divisions 1461  
(E), ~~(F)~~, and ~~(I)~~(G) of this section for candidates whose 1462  
campaign committees file those statements by electronic means of 1463  
transmission. 1464

(d) The candidate of an eligible campaign committee that 1465  
intends to file a campaign finance statement pursuant to 1466  
division ~~(I)~~(J) of this section shall file a notice indicating 1467  
that the candidate's campaign committee intends to so file and 1468  
stating that filing the statement by electronic means of 1469  
transmission would constitute a hardship for the candidate or 1470  
for the eligible campaign committee. 1471

(e) An eligible campaign committee that files a campaign 1472  
finance statement on paper pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(J) of this 1473  
section shall review the contribution and information made 1474  
available online by the secretary of state with respect to that 1475  
paper filing and shall notify the secretary of state of any 1476  
errors with respect to that filing that appear in the data made 1477  
available on that web site. 1478

(f) If an eligible campaign committee whose candidate has 1479  
filed a notice in accordance with rules adopted under division 1480  
~~(I)~~(J) (1) (d) of this section subsequently fails to file that 1481  
statement on paper by the applicable deadline established in 1482  
rules adopted under division ~~(I)~~(J) (1) (a) of this section, 1483  
penalties for the late filing of the campaign finance statement 1484

shall apply to that campaign committee for each day after that 1485  
 paper filing deadline, as if the campaign committee had filed 1486  
 the statement after the applicable deadline set forth in 1487  
 division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1488

(2) The process for permitting campaign committees that 1489  
 would otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements 1490  
 by electronic means of transmission to file those statements on 1491  
 paper with the office of the secretary of state that is required 1492  
 to be developed under division ~~(I)~~(J)(1) of this section shall 1493  
 be in effect and available for use by eligible campaign 1494  
 committees for all campaign finance statements that are required 1495  
 to be filed on or after June 30, 2005. Notwithstanding any 1496  
 provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, if the process 1497  
 the secretary of state is required to develop under division (L) 1498  
 (1) of this section is not in effect and available for use on 1499  
 and after June 30, 2005, all penalties for the failure of 1500  
 campaign committees to file campaign finance statements by 1501  
 electronic means of transmission shall be suspended until such 1502  
 time as that process is in effect and available for use. 1503

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to 1504  
 the contrary, any eligible campaign committee that files 1505  
 campaign finance statements on paper with the office of the 1506  
 secretary of state pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(J)(1) of this 1507  
 section shall be deemed to have filed those campaign finance 1508  
 statements by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1509  
 the secretary of state. 1510

**Sec. 3517.1011.** (A) As used in this section: 1511

(1) "Address" has the same meaning as in section 3517.10 1512  
 of the Revised Code. 1513

(2) "Broadcast, cable, or satellite communication" means a 1514  
communication that is publicly distributed by a television 1515  
station, radio station, cable television system, or satellite 1516  
system. 1517

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 1518  
of the Revised Code. 1519

(4) "Contribution" means any loan, gift, deposit, 1520  
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 1521  
transfer of funds or of anything of value, including a transfer 1522  
of funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 1523  
estate, and the payment by any person other than the person to 1524  
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 1525  
another person, that is made, received, or used to pay the 1526  
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 1527  
communications. 1528

(5) (a) "Coordinated electioneering communication" means 1529  
any electioneering communication that is made pursuant to any 1530  
arrangement, coordination, or direction by a candidate or a 1531  
candidate's campaign committee, by an officer, agent, employee, 1532  
or consultant of a candidate or a candidate's campaign 1533  
committee, or by a former officer, former agent, former 1534  
employee, or former consultant of a candidate or a candidate's 1535  
campaign committee prior to the airing, broadcasting, or 1536  
cablecasting of the communication. An electioneering 1537  
communication is presumed to be a "coordinated electioneering 1538  
communication" when it is either of the following: 1539

(i) Based on information about a candidate's plans, 1540  
projects, or needs provided to the person making the 1541  
disbursement by the candidate or the candidate's campaign 1542  
committee, by an officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the 1543

candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, or by a former 1544  
officer, former agent, former employee, or former consultant of 1545  
the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, with a view 1546  
toward having the communication made; 1547

(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, 1548  
authorized to raise or expend funds on behalf of a candidate or 1549  
the candidate's campaign committee, who is, or has been, an 1550  
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1551  
the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has been, 1552  
receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the 1553  
candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or from an 1554  
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1555  
the candidate's campaign committee. 1556

(b) An electioneering communication shall not be presumed 1557  
to be a "coordinated electioneering communication" under 1558  
division (A) (5) (a) (ii) of this section if the communication is 1559  
made through any person who provides a service that does not 1560  
affect the content of the communication, such as communications 1561  
placed through the efforts of a media buyer, unless that person 1562  
also affects the content of the communication. 1563

(6) "Disclosure date" means both of the following: 1564

(a) The first date during any calendar year by which a 1565  
person makes disbursements for the direct costs of producing or 1566  
airing electioneering communications aggregating in excess of 1567  
ten thousand dollars; 1568

(b) The same day of the week of each remaining week in the 1569  
same calendar year as the day of the week of the initial 1570  
disclosure date established under division (A) (6) (a) of this 1571  
section, if, during that remaining week, the person makes 1572

disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing 1573  
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of one 1574  
dollar. 1575

(7) (a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, 1576  
cable, or satellite communication that refers to a clearly 1577  
identified candidate and that is made during either of the 1578  
following periods of time: 1579

(i) If the person becomes a candidate before the day of 1580  
the primary election at which candidates will be nominated for 1581  
election to that office, between the date that the person 1582  
becomes a candidate and the thirtieth day prior to that primary 1583  
election, and between the date of the primary election and the 1584  
thirtieth day prior to the general election at which a candidate 1585  
will be elected to that office; 1586

(ii) If the person becomes a candidate after the day of 1587  
the primary election at which candidates were nominated for 1588  
election to that office, between the date of the primary 1589  
election and the thirtieth day prior to the general election at 1590  
which a candidate will be elected to that office. 1591

(b) "Electioneering communication" does not include any of 1592  
the following: 1593

(i) A communication that is publicly disseminated through 1594  
a means of communication other than a broadcast, cable, or 1595  
satellite television or radio station. For example, 1596  
"electioneering communication" does not include communications 1597  
appearing in print media, including a newspaper or magazine, 1598  
handbill, brochure, bumper sticker, yard sign, poster, 1599  
billboard, and other written materials, including mailings; 1600  
communications over the internet, including electronic mail; or 1601

telephone communications. 1602

(ii) A communication that appears in a news story, 1603  
commentary, public service announcement, bona fide news 1604  
programming, or editorial distributed through the facilities of 1605  
any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station, 1606  
unless those facilities are owned or controlled by any political 1607  
party, political committee, or candidate; 1608

(iii) A communication that constitutes an expenditure or 1609  
an independent expenditure under section 3517.01 of the Revised 1610  
Code; 1611

(iv) A communication that constitutes a candidate debate 1612  
or forum or that solely promotes a candidate debate or forum and 1613  
is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or 1614  
forum. 1615

(8) "Filing date" has the same meaning as in section 1616  
3517.109 of the Revised Code. 1617

(9) "Immigration and Nationality Act" means the 1618  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 110 Stat. 309 (1996), 8 U.S.C. 1619  
1101 et seq., as amended. 1620

(10) "Person" has the same meaning as in section 1.59 of 1621  
the Revised Code and includes any political organization 1622  
considered exempt from income taxation under section 527 of the 1623  
Internal Revenue Code. 1624

(11) "Political committee" means any of the following: 1625

(a) Any committee, club, association, or other group of 1626  
persons that receives contributions aggregating in excess of one 1627  
thousand dollars during a calendar year or that makes 1628  
expenditures aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars 1629

during a calendar year; 1630

(b) Any separate segregated fund; 1631

(c) Any state, county, or local committee of a political party that does any of the following: 1632  
1633

(i) Receives contributions aggregating in excess of five thousand dollars during a calendar year; 1634  
1635

(ii) Makes payments that do not constitute contributions or expenditures aggregating in excess of five thousand dollars during a calendar year; 1636  
1637  
1638

(iii) Makes contributions or expenditures aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars during a calendar year. 1639  
1640

(12) "Publicly distributed" means aired, broadcast, cablecast, or otherwise disseminated for a fee. 1641  
1642

(13) "Refers to a clearly identified candidate" means that the candidate's name, nickname, photograph, or drawing appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent through an unambiguous reference to the person such as "the chief justice," "the governor," "member of the Ohio senate," "member of the Ohio house of representatives," "county auditor," "mayor," or "township trustee" or through an unambiguous reference to the person's status as a candidate. 1643  
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(B) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be considered to have made a disbursement if the person has entered into a contract to make the disbursement. 1651  
1652  
1653

(C) Any person intending to make a disbursement or disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, prior to making the first disbursement for the direct costs of producing or airing an 1654  
1655  
1656  
1657



electioneering communication, shall file a notice with the 1658  
office of the secretary of state that the person is intending to 1659  
make such disbursements. 1660

(D) (1) Every person that makes a disbursement or 1661  
disbursements for the direct costs of producing and airing 1662  
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of ten 1663  
thousand dollars during any calendar year shall file, within 1664  
twenty-four hours of each disclosure date, a disclosure of 1665  
electioneering communications statement containing the following 1666  
information: 1667

(a) The full name and address of the person making the 1668  
disbursement, of any person sharing or exercising direction or 1669  
control over the activities of the person making the 1670  
disbursement, and of the custodian of the books and accounts of 1671  
the person making the disbursement; 1672

(b) The principal place of business of the person making 1673  
the disbursement, if not an individual; 1674

(c) The amount of each disbursement of more than one 1675  
dollar during the period covered by the statement and the 1676  
identity of the person to whom the disbursement was made; 1677

(d) The nominations or elections to which the 1678  
electioneering communications pertain and the names, if known, 1679  
of the candidates identified or to be identified; 1680

(e) If the disbursements were paid out of a segregated 1681  
bank account that consists of funds contributed solely by 1682  
individuals who are United States citizens or nationals or 1683  
lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in section 1684  
101(a) (20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act directly to 1685  
the account for electioneering communications, the information 1686

specified in division (D) (2) of this section for all 1687  
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1688  
dollars or more to the segregated bank account and whose 1689  
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1690  
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1691  
section during the period covered by the statement. Nothing in 1692  
this division prohibits or shall be construed to prohibit the 1693  
use of funds in such a segregated bank account for a purpose 1694  
other than electioneering communications. 1695

(f) If the disbursements were paid out of funds not 1696  
described in division (D) (1) (e) of this section, the information 1697  
specified in division (D) (2) of this section for all 1698  
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1699  
dollars or more to the person making the disbursement and whose 1700  
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1701  
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1702  
section during the period covered by the statement. 1703

(2) For each contributor for which information is required 1704  
to be reported under division (D) (1) (e) or (f) of this section, 1705  
all of the following shall be reported: 1706

(a) The month, day, and year that the contributor made the 1707  
contribution or contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or 1708  
more; 1709

(b) (i) The full name and address of the contributor, and, 1710  
if the contributor is a political action committee, the 1711  
registration number assigned to the political action committee 1712  
under division (D) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1713

(ii) If the contributor is an individual, the name of the 1714  
individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual is 1715

self-employed, the individual's occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any;

(iii) If the contribution is transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries of two or more employees that exceed in the aggregate one hundred dollars during the period specified in division (D)(1)(e) or (f) of this section, as applicable, the full name of the employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization of which the employees are members, if any.

(c) A description of the contribution, if other than money;

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution.

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 and division ~~(H)~~(F)(1) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, a person shall file the disclosure of electioneering communications statement prescribed under divisions (D)(1) and (2) of this section by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state.

Within five business days after the secretary of state receives a disclosure of electioneering communications statement under this division, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division ~~(I)~~(G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the contribution and disbursement information in that statement.

If a filed disclosure of electioneering communications

statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after its 1745  
 examination for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1746  
 (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the person 1747  
 shall file by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1748  
 the secretary of state any addendum, amendment, or other 1749  
 correction to the statement that provides the information 1750  
 necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required 1751  
 by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1752  
 statement. 1753

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1754  
 receives an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1755  
 disclosure of electioneering communications statement or an 1756  
 amended statement by electronic means of transmission under this 1757  
 division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1758  
 Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and 1759  
 disbursement information in the addendum, amendment, or other 1760  
 correction to the statement or amended statement available 1761  
 online to the public through the internet as provided in 1762  
 division ~~(F)~~ (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 1763

(E) (1) Any person who makes a contribution for the purpose 1764  
 of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1765  
 electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1766  
 the person's full name and address to the recipient of the 1767  
 contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1768

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution or 1769  
 contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or more for the 1770  
 purpose of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1771  
 electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1772  
 the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if 1773  
 the individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation and 1774

the name of the individual's business, if any, to the recipient 1775  
of the contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1776

(F) In each electioneering communication, a statement 1777  
shall appear or be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner 1778  
that does both of the following: 1779

(1) Clearly indicates that the electioneering 1780  
communication is not authorized by the candidate or the 1781  
candidate's campaign committee; 1782

(2) Clearly identifies the person making the disbursement 1783  
for the electioneering communication in accordance with section 1784  
3517.20 of the Revised Code. 1785

(G) Any coordinated electioneering communication is an in- 1786  
kind contribution, subject to the applicable contribution limits 1787  
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, to the 1788  
candidate by the person making disbursements to pay the direct 1789  
costs of producing or airing the communication. 1790

(H) No person shall make, during the thirty days preceding 1791  
a primary election or during the thirty days preceding a general 1792  
election, any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that 1793  
refers to a clearly identified candidate using any contributions 1794  
received from a corporation or labor organization. 1795

**Sec. 3517.11.** (A) (1) Campaign committees of candidates for 1796  
statewide office or the state board of education, political 1797  
action committees or political contributing entities that make 1798  
contributions to campaign committees of candidates that are 1799  
required to file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 1800  
the Revised Code with the secretary of state, political action 1801  
committees or political contributing entities that make 1802  
contributions to campaign committees of candidates for member of 1803

the general assembly, political action committees or political contributing entities that make contributions to state and national political parties and to legislative campaign funds, political action committees or political contributing entities that receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with a statewide ballot issue, political action committees or political contributing entities that make contributions to other political action committees or political contributing entities, political parties, and campaign committees, except as set forth in division (A) (3) of this section, legislative campaign funds, and state and national political parties shall file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the secretary of state.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division ~~(F)~~(E) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, campaign committees of candidates for all other offices shall file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board of elections where their candidates are required to file their petitions or other papers for nomination or election.

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for office of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals shall file two copies of the printed version of any statement, addendum, or amended statement if the committee does not file pursuant to division ~~(F)~~(E) or ~~(L)~~(J) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code but files by printed version only with the appropriate board of elections. The board of elections shall send one of those copies by certified mail or an electronic copy to the secretary of state before the close of business on the day the board of elections receives the statement, addendum, or amended statement.

(3) Political action committees or political contributing 1835  
 entities that only contribute to a county political party, 1836  
 contribute to campaign committees of candidates whose nomination 1837  
 or election is to be submitted only to electors within a county, 1838  
 subdivision, or district, excluding candidates for member of the 1839  
 general assembly, and receive contributions or make expenditures 1840  
 in connection with ballot questions or issues to be submitted 1841  
 only to electors within a county, subdivision, or district shall 1842  
 file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1843  
 Code with the board of elections in that county or in the county 1844  
 contained in whole or part within the subdivision or district 1845  
 having a population greater than that of any other county 1846  
 contained in whole or part within that subdivision or district, 1847  
 as the case may be. 1848

(4) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) ~~(3)~~ (1)(e) 1849  
 of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code with respect to state 1850  
 candidate funds, county political parties shall file the 1851  
 statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1852  
 with the board of elections of their respective counties. 1853

(B) (1) The official with whom petitions and other papers 1854  
 for nomination or election to public office are filed shall 1855  
 furnish each candidate at the time of that filing a copy of 1856  
 sections 3517.01, 3517.08 to 3517.11, 3517.13 to 3517.993, 1857  
 3599.03, and 3599.031 of the Revised Code and any other 1858  
 materials that the secretary of state may require. Each 1859  
 candidate receiving the materials shall acknowledge their 1860  
 receipt in writing. 1861

(2) On or before the tenth day before the dates on which 1862  
 statements are required to be filed by section 3517.10 of the 1863  
 Revised Code, every candidate subject to the provisions of this 1864

section and sections 3517.10 and 3517.106 of the Revised Code 1865  
 shall be notified of the requirements and applicable penalties 1866  
 of those sections. The secretary of state, by certified mail, 1867  
 return receipt requested, shall notify all candidates required 1868  
 to file those statements with the secretary of state's office. 1869  
 The board of elections of every county shall notify by first 1870  
 class mail any candidate who has personally appeared at the 1871  
 office of the board on or before the tenth day before the 1872  
 statements are required to be filed and signed a form, to be 1873  
 provided by the secretary of state, attesting that the candidate 1874  
 has been notified of the candidate's obligations under the 1875  
 campaign finance law. The board shall forward the completed form 1876  
 to the secretary of state. The board shall use certified mail, 1877  
 return receipt requested, to notify all other candidates 1878  
 required to file those statements with it. 1879

(3) (a) Any statement required to be filed under sections 1880  
 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code that is found to be 1881  
 incomplete or inaccurate by the officer to whom it is submitted 1882  
 shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the person who 1883  
 filed it shall be notified by certified mail as to the 1884  
 incomplete or inaccurate nature of the statement. The secretary 1885  
 of state may examine statements filed for candidates for the 1886  
 office of member of the general assembly and candidates for the 1887  
 office of judge of a court of appeals for completeness and 1888  
 accuracy. The secretary of state shall examine for completeness 1889  
 and accuracy statements that campaign committees of candidates 1890  
 for the office of member of the general assembly and campaign 1891  
 committees of candidates for the office of judge of a court of 1892  
 appeals file pursuant to division ~~(F)~~ (E) or ~~(I)~~ (J) of section 1893  
 3517.106 of the Revised Code. If an officer at the board of 1894  
 elections where a statement filed for a candidate for the office 1895



of member of the general assembly or for a candidate for the 1896  
office of judge of a court of appeals was submitted finds the 1897  
statement to be incomplete or inaccurate, the officer shall 1898  
immediately notify the secretary of state of its incomplete or 1899  
inaccurate nature. If either an officer at the board of 1900  
elections or the secretary of state finds a statement filed for 1901  
a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or 1902  
for a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals to 1903  
be incomplete or inaccurate, only the secretary of state shall 1904  
send the notification as to the incomplete or inaccurate nature 1905  
of the statement. 1906

Within twenty-one days after receipt of the notice, in the 1907  
case of a pre-election statement, a postelection statement, a 1908  
monthly statement, an annual statement, or a semiannual 1909  
statement prescribed by section 3517.10, an annual statement 1910  
prescribed by section 3517.101, or a statement prescribed by 1911  
division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 or section 1912  
3517.107 of the Revised Code, the recipient shall file an 1913  
addendum, amendment, or other correction to the statement 1914  
providing the information necessary to complete or correct the 1915  
statement. The secretary of state may require that, in lieu of 1916  
filing an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1917  
statement that is filed by electronic means of transmission to 1918  
the office of the secretary of state or a board of elections 1919  
pursuant to section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the recipient 1920  
of the notice described in this division file by electronic 1921  
means of transmission an amended statement that incorporates the 1922  
information necessary to complete or correct the statement. 1923

The secretary of state shall determine by rule when an 1924  
addendum, amendment, or other correction to any of the following 1925  
or when an amended statement of any of the following shall be 1926

filed: 1927

(i) A two-business-day statement prescribed by section 1928  
3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1929

(ii) A disclosure of electioneering communications 1930  
statement prescribed by division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the 1931  
Revised Code; 1932

(iii) A deposit and disbursement statement prescribed 1933  
under division (B) of section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 1934

(iv) A gift and disbursement statement prescribed under 1935  
section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code; 1936

(v) A donation and disbursement statement prescribed under 1937  
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 1938

An addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement 1939  
that is filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to 1940  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in the same 1941  
manner as the statement. 1942

The provisions of sections 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 1943  
3517.1012, 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code 1944  
pertaining to the filing of statements of contributions and 1945  
expenditures, statements of independent expenditures, disclosure 1946  
of electioneering communications statements, deposit and 1947  
disbursement statements, gift and disbursement statements, and 1948  
donation and disbursement statements by electronic means of 1949  
transmission apply to the filing of addenda, amendments, or 1950  
other corrections to those statements by electronic means of 1951  
transmission and the filing of amended statements by electronic 1952  
means of transmission. 1953

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 1954

receives, by electronic or other means of transmission, an 1955  
 addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or an 1956  
 amended statement under division (B) (3) (a) of this section, the 1957  
 secretary of state, pursuant to divisions (E) ~~, (F),~~ and (G) ~~, and~~ 1958  
~~(I)~~ of section 3517.106 or division (D) of section 3517.1011 of 1959  
 the Revised Code, shall make the contribution and expenditure, 1960  
 contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift 1961  
 and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in 1962  
 that addendum, amendment, correction, or amended statement 1963  
 available online to the public through the internet. 1964

(4) (a) The secretary of state or the board of elections 1965  
 shall examine all statements for compliance with sections 1966  
 3517.08 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 1967

(b) The secretary of state may contract with an individual 1968  
 or entity not associated with the secretary of state and 1969  
 experienced in interpreting the campaign finance law of this 1970  
 state to conduct examinations of statements filed by any 1971  
 statewide candidate, as defined in section 3517.103 of the 1972  
 Revised Code. 1973

(c) The examination shall be conducted by a person or 1974  
 entity qualified to conduct it. The results of the examination 1975  
 shall be available to the public, and, when the examination is 1976  
 conducted by an individual or entity not associated with the 1977  
 secretary of state, the results of the examination shall be 1978  
 reported to the secretary of state. 1979

(C) (1) In the event of a failure to file or a late filing 1980  
 of a statement required to be filed under sections 3517.081 to 1981  
 3517.17 of the Revised Code, or if a filed statement or any 1982  
 addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or any 1983  
 amended statement, if an addendum, amendment, or other 1984

correction or an amended statement is required to be filed, is 1985  
incomplete or inaccurate or appears to disclose a failure to 1986  
comply with or a violation of law, the official whose duty it is 1987  
to examine the statement shall promptly file a complaint with 1988  
the Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of the 1989  
Revised Code if the law is one over which the commission has 1990  
jurisdiction to hear complaints, or the official shall promptly 1991  
report the failure or violation to the board of elections and 1992  
the board shall promptly report it to the prosecuting attorney 1993  
in accordance with division (J) of section 3501.11 of the 1994  
Revised Code. If the official files a complaint with the 1995  
commission, the commission shall proceed in accordance with 1996  
sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. 1997

(2) For purposes of division (C)(1) of this section, a 1998  
statement or an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1999  
statement or an amended statement required to be filed under 2000  
sections 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code is incomplete 2001  
or inaccurate under this section if the statement, addendum, 2002  
amendment, other correction, or amended statement fails to 2003  
disclose substantially all contributions, gifts, or donations 2004  
that are received or deposits that are made that are required to 2005  
be reported under sections 3517.10, 3517.107, 3517.108, 2006  
3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised 2007  
Code or if the statement, addendum, amendment, other correction, 2008  
or amended statement fails to disclose at least ninety per cent 2009  
of the total contributions, gifts, or donations received or 2010  
deposits made or of the total expenditures or disbursements made 2011  
during the reporting period. 2012

(D) No certificate of nomination or election shall be 2013  
issued to a person, and no person elected to an office shall 2014  
enter upon the performance of the duties of that office, until 2015

that person or that person's campaign committee, as appropriate, 2016  
has fully complied with this section and sections 3517.08, 2017  
3517.081, 3517.10, and 3517.13 of the Revised Code. 2018

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 2019  
3517.106, 3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code are hereby 2020  
repealed. 2021

**Section 3.** This act shall take effect on the first day of 2022  
January that occurs at least one hundred eighty days after the 2023  
act is filed with the Secretary of State. 2024