

HOUSE BILL 2852

By Kumar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2;
Title 3 and Title 4, Chapter 55, relative to
government reform.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 55, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is created a campaign finance reform commission, referred to in this section as the commission, composed of ten (10) members appointed as follows:

(1) Three (3) members to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(2) Three (3) members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) Three (3) members to be appointed by the governor; and

(4) One (1) member to be appointed by the comptroller of the treasury.

(b) Of the initial appointments under subdivisions (a)(1)-(3), the appointing authority shall appoint one (1) member to a term of four (4) years, one (1) member to a term of three (3) years, and one (1) member to a term of two (2) years. The member appointed by the comptroller of the treasury shall serve an initial term of two (2) years. After the initial terms, each appointee serves a term of four (4) years.

(c) In making appointments to the commission, the appointing authorities shall collaborate to ensure that one (1) or more appointees has a background as an attorney, as an accountant, as clergy, and in ethics.

(d) The commission is attached to the bureau of ethics and campaign finance for administrative purposes.

(e) The members serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority, and may be appointed to consecutive terms. A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.

(f) The members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their service on the commission, and the members are not entitled to per diem or travel expenses for the purposes of carrying out their duties under this section.

(g) The governor shall call the first meeting of the commission, and the commission shall meet no less than quarterly. At the first meeting of each year, the commission shall elect a chair from among its members, and shall meet at the call of the chair in addition to its quarterly meetings.

(h) For purposes of conducting official business, a quorum consists of no less than six (6) members.

(i) The duties of the commission are:

(1) To evaluate the current practices of the bureau of ethics and campaign finance, including recommending changes to such practices;

(2) To examine the composition of the bureau of ethics and campaign finance;

(3) To examine the frequency and timing of campaign finance reports filed by members of the general assembly;

(4) To strictly monitor filings;

(5) To examine whether penalties and fines are consistent and uniform in application, including penalties and fines for same level offenses, late filings, erroneous filings, and failing to file;

(6) To examine the period for payment of such penalties and fines;

(7) To examine the source of funds used to pay such penalties and fines;
and

(8) To examine the disposition, reporting, and use of retained campaign funds after an elected official is no longer in office.

(j) The commission shall issue an annual report on campaign finance and ethical issues consistent with its duties under this section, and on the current and future activities of the commission, and shall submit the report to the governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the comptroller of the treasury no later than December 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.