

As Introduced

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
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H. B. No. 24

Representative Batchelder

**Cosponsors: Representatives Adams, J., Amstutz, Bacon, Balderson,
Boose, Bubp, Burke, Combs, Daniels, Derickson, Gardner, Goodwin,
Grossman, Hackett, Hall, Hite, Hottinger, Huffman, Jones, Jordan, Martin,
McClain, Mecklenborg, Morgan, Ruhl, Sears, Stautberg, Stebelton, Uecker,
Zehringer**

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A B I L L

To amend sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.106, 1
3517.11, 3517.153, 3517.154, 3517.992, and 3599.03 2
and to enact section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code 3
to permit individuals elected or appointed to 4
state office to establish transition funds to 5
receive donations and to make expenditures for 6
transition activities and inaugural celebrations. 7

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

Section 1. That sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.11, 8
3517.153, 3517.154, 3517.992, and 3599.03 be amended and section 9
3517.1014 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 10

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Sec. 3517.01. (A)(1) A political party within the meaning of 12
Title XXXV of the Revised Code is any group of voters that, at the 13
most recent regular state election, polled for its candidate for 14
governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at 15

least five per cent of the entire vote cast for that office or 16
that filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to any election 17
in which it received less than five per cent of that vote, a 18
petition signed by qualified electors equal in number to at least 19
one per cent of the total vote for governor or nominees for 20
presidential electors at the most recent election, declaring their 21
intention of organizing a political party, the name of which shall 22
be stated in the declaration, and of participating in the 23
succeeding primary election, held in even-numbered years, that 24
occurs more than one hundred twenty days after the date of filing. 25
No such group of electors shall assume a name or designation that 26
is similar, in the opinion of the secretary of state, to that of 27
an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at 28
an election. If any political party fails to cast five per cent of 29
the total vote cast at an election for the office of governor or 30
president, it shall cease to be a political party. 31

(2) A campaign committee shall be legally liable for any 32
debts, contracts, or expenditures incurred or executed in its 33
name. 34

(B) Notwithstanding the definitions found in section 3501.01 35
of the Revised Code, as used in this section and sections 3517.08 36
to 3517.14, 3517.99, and 3517.992 of the Revised Code: 37

(1) "Campaign committee" means a candidate or a combination 38
of two or more persons authorized by a candidate under section 39
3517.081 of the Revised Code to receive contributions and make 40
expenditures. 41

(2) "Campaign treasurer" means an individual appointed by a 42
candidate under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code. 43

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in division (H) of 44
section 3501.01 of the Revised Code and also includes any person 45
who, at any time before or after an election, receives 46

contributions or makes expenditures or other use of contributions, 47
has given consent for another to receive contributions or make 48
expenditures or other use of contributions, or appoints a campaign 49
treasurer, for the purpose of bringing about the person's 50
nomination or election to public office. When two persons jointly 51
seek the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, "candidate" 52
means the pair of candidates jointly. "Candidate" does not include 53
candidates for election to the offices of member of a county or 54
state central committee, presidential elector, and delegate to a 55
national convention or conference of a political party. 56

(4) "Continuing association" means an association, other than 57
a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, 58
political contributing entity, or labor organization, that is 59
intended to be a permanent organization that has a primary purpose 60
other than supporting or opposing specific candidates, political 61
parties, or ballot issues, and that functions on a regular basis 62
throughout the year. "Continuing association" includes 63
organizations that are determined to be not organized for profit 64
under subsection 501 and that are described in subsection 65
501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. 66

(5) "Contribution" means a loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness 67
of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds 68
or anything of value, including a transfer of funds from an inter 69
vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's estate, and the payment 70
by any person other than the person to whom the services are 71
rendered for the personal services of another person, which 72
contribution is made, received, or used for the purpose of 73
influencing the results of an election. Any loan, gift, deposit, 74
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 75
transfer of funds or of anything of value, including a transfer of 76
funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 77
estate, and the payment by any campaign committee, political 78

action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, 79
political contributing entity, or person other than the person to 80
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 81
another person, that is made, received, or used by a state or 82
county political party, other than moneys a state or county 83
political party receives from the Ohio political party fund 84
pursuant to section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and the moneys a 85
state or county political party may receive under sections 86
3517.101, 3517.1012, and 3517.1013 of the Revised Code, shall be 87
considered to be a "contribution" for the purpose of section 88
3517.10 of the Revised Code and shall be included on a statement 89
of contributions filed under that section. 90

"Contribution" does not include any of the following: 91

(a) Services provided without compensation by individuals 92
volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a person; 93

(b) Ordinary home hospitality; 94

(c) The personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that 95
volunteer campaign worker; 96

(d) Any gift given to a state or county political party 97
pursuant to section 3517.101 of the Revised Code. As used in 98
division (B)(5)(d) of this section, "political party" means only a 99
major political party; 100

(e) Any contribution as defined in section 3517.1011 of the 101
Revised Code that is made, received, or used to pay the direct 102
costs of producing or airing an electioneering communication; 103

(f) Any gift given to a state or county political party for 104
the party's restricted fund under division (A)(2) of section 105
3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 106

(g) Any gift given to a state political party for deposit in 107
a Levin account pursuant to section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code. 108

As used in this division, "Levin account" has the same meaning as 109
in that section. 110

(h) Any donation given to a transition fund under section 111
3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 112

(6) "Expenditure" means the disbursement or use of a 113
contribution for the purpose of influencing the results of an 114
election or of making a charitable donation under division (G) of 115
section 3517.08 of the Revised Code. Any disbursement or use of a 116
contribution by a state or county political party is an 117
expenditure and shall be considered either to be made for the 118
purpose of influencing the results of an election or to be made as 119
a charitable donation under division (G) of section 3517.08 of the 120
Revised Code and shall be reported on a statement of expenditures 121
filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. During the thirty 122
days preceding a primary or general election, any disbursement to 123
pay the direct costs of producing or airing a broadcast, cable, or 124
satellite communication that refers to a clearly identified 125
candidate shall be considered to be made for the purpose of 126
influencing the results of that election and shall be reported as 127
an expenditure or as an independent expenditure under section 128
3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised Code, as applicable, except 129
that the information required to be reported regarding 130
contributors for those expenditures or independent expenditures 131
shall be the same as the information required to be reported under 132
divisions (D)(1) and (2) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 133

As used in this division, "broadcast, cable, or satellite 134
communication" and "refers to a clearly identified candidate" have 135
the same meanings as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 136

(7) "Personal expenses" includes, but is not limited to, 137
ordinary expenses for accommodations, clothing, food, personal 138
motor vehicle or airplane, and home telephone. 139

(8) "Political action committee" means a combination of two 140
or more persons, the primary or major purpose of which is to 141
support or oppose any candidate, political party, or issue, or to 142
influence the result of any election through express advocacy, and 143
that is not a political party, a campaign committee, a political 144
contributing entity, or a legislative campaign fund. "Political 145
action committee" does not include either of the following: 146

(a) A continuing association that makes disbursements for the 147
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications 148
and that does not engage in express advocacy; 149

(b) A political club that is formed primarily for social 150
purposes and that consists of one hundred members or less, has 151
officers and periodic meetings, has less than two thousand five 152
hundred dollars in its treasury at all times, and makes an 153
aggregate total contribution of one thousand dollars or less per 154
calendar year. 155

(9) "Public office" means any state, county, municipal, 156
township, or district office, except an office of a political 157
party, that is filled by an election and the offices of United 158
States senator and representative. 159

(10) "Anything of value" has the same meaning as in section 160
1.03 of the Revised Code. 161

(11) "Beneficiary of a campaign fund" means a candidate, a 162
public official or employee for whose benefit a campaign fund 163
exists, and any other person who has ever been a candidate or 164
public official or employee and for whose benefit a campaign fund 165
exists. 166

(12) "Campaign fund" means money or other property, including 167
contributions. 168

(13) "Public official or employee" has the same meaning as in 169
section 102.01 of the Revised Code. 170

(14) "Caucus" means all of the members of the house of 171
representatives or all of the members of the senate of the general 172
assembly who are members of the same political party. 173

(15) "Legislative campaign fund" means a fund that is 174
established as an auxiliary of a state political party and 175
associated with one of the houses of the general assembly. 176

(16) "In-kind contribution" means anything of value other 177
than money that is used to influence the results of an election or 178
is transferred to or used in support of or in opposition to a 179
candidate, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 180
political party, political action committee, or political 181
contributing entity and that is made with the consent of, in 182
coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request 183
or suggestion of the benefited candidate, committee, fund, party, 184
or entity. The financing of the dissemination, distribution, or 185
 republication, in whole or part, of any broadcast or of any 186
written, graphic, or other form of campaign materials prepared by 187
the candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, or their 188
authorized agents is an in-kind contribution to the candidate and 189
an expenditure by the candidate. 190

(17) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a 191
person advocating the election or defeat of an identified 192
candidate or candidates, that is not made with the consent of, in 193
coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request 194
or suggestion of any candidate or candidates or of the campaign 195
committee or agent of the candidate or candidates. As used in 196
division (B)(17) of this section: 197

(a) "Person" means an individual, partnership, unincorporated 198
business organization or association, political action committee, 199
political contributing entity, separate segregated fund, 200
association, or other organization or group of persons, but not a 201
labor organization or a corporation unless the labor organization 202

or corporation is a political contributing entity.	203
(b) "Advocating" means any communication containing a message advocating election or defeat.	204 205
(c) "Identified candidate" means that the name of the candidate appears, a photograph or drawing of the candidate appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent by unambiguous reference.	206 207 208 209
(d) "Made in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or the campaign committee or agent of the candidate" means made pursuant to any arrangement, coordination, or direction by the candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, or the candidate's agent prior to the publication, distribution, display, or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure is presumed to be so made when it is any of the following:	210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217
(i) Based on information about the candidate's plans, projects, or needs provided to the person making the expenditure by the candidate, or by the candidate's campaign committee or agent, with a view toward having an expenditure made;	218 219 220 221
(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, authorized to raise or expend funds, who is, or has been, an officer of the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has been, receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or agent;	222 223 224 225 226
(iii) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code, made by a political party in support of a candidate, unless the expenditure is made by a political party to conduct voter registration or voter education efforts.	227 228 229 230
(e) "Agent" means any person who has actual oral or written authority, either express or implied, to make or to authorize the making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate, or means any	231 232 233

person who has been placed in a position with the candidate's 234
campaign committee or organization such that it would reasonably 235
appear that in the ordinary course of campaign-related activities 236
the person may authorize expenditures. 237

(18) "Labor organization" means a labor union; an employee 238
organization; a federation of labor unions, groups, locals, or 239
other employee organizations; an auxiliary of a labor union, 240
employee organization, or federation of labor unions, groups, 241
locals, or other employee organizations; or any other bona fide 242
organization in which employees participate and that exists for 243
the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers 244
concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours, and other 245
terms and conditions of employment. 246

(19) "Separate segregated fund" means a separate segregated 247
fund established pursuant to the Federal Election Campaign Act. 248

(20) "Federal Election Campaign Act" means the "Federal 249
Election Campaign Act of 1971," 86 Stat. 11, 2 U.S.C.A. 431, et 250
seq., as amended. 251

(21) "Restricted fund" means the fund a state or county 252
political party must establish under division (A)(1) of section 253
3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 254

(22) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning as 255
in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 256

(23) "Express advocacy" means a communication that contains 257
express words advocating the nomination, election, or defeat of a 258
candidate or that contains express words advocating the adoption 259
or defeat of a question or issue, as determined by a final 260
judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 261

(24) "Political committee" has the same meaning as in section 262
3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 263

(25) "Political contributing entity" means any entity, 264
including a corporation or labor organization, that may lawfully 265
make contributions and expenditures and that is not an individual 266
or a political action committee, continuing association, campaign 267
committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, designated 268
state campaign committee, or state candidate fund. For purposes of 269
this division, "lawfully" means not prohibited by any section of 270
the Revised Code, or authorized by a final judgment of a court of 271
competent jurisdiction. 272

Sec. 3517.10. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 273
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 274
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 275
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 276
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 277
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 278
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on a 279
form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 280
transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 281
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made under 282
penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail the 283
contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of the 284
following dates: 285

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 286
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 287
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 288
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 289
before the election; 290

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect the 291
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 292
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 293
statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh day 294

before the filing of the statement; 295

(3) The last business day of January of every year to reflect 296
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 297
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 298
statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of 299
December of the previous year; 300

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 301
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 302
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 303
statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of 304
June of that year. 305

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 306
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 307
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 308
committee's candidate. 309

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this section 310
shall not be required of any campaign committee, political action 311
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 312
political contributing entity that has received contributions of 313
less than one thousand dollars and has made expenditures of less 314
than one thousand dollars at the close of business on the 315
twentieth day before the election. Those contributions and 316
expenditures shall be reported in the statement required under 317
division (A)(2) of this section. 318

If an election to select candidates to appear on the general 319
election ballot is held within sixty days before a general 320
election, the campaign committee of a successful candidate in the 321
earlier election may file the statement required by division 322
(A)(1) of this section for the general election instead of the 323
statement required by division (A)(2) of this section for the 324
earlier election if the pregeneral election statement reflects the 325

status of contributions and expenditures for the period twenty 326
days before the earlier election to twenty days before the general 327
election. 328

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before 329
an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to 330
file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section. 331

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be 332
required for any year in which a campaign committee, political 333
action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 334
political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral 335
election statement under division (A)(2) of this section. However, 336
a statement under division (A)(3) of this section may be filed, at 337
the option of the campaign committee, political action committee, 338
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 339
contributing entity. 340

No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of chief 341
justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign committee 342
of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in this state, 343
shall be required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of 344
this section. 345

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the 346
next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees 347
required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of this section 348
are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and the 349
campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The campaign 350
committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial office is 351
required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of this section 352
if that campaign committee receives, during that period, 353
contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars. 354

No statement under division (A)(4) of this section shall be 355
required of a campaign committee, a political action committee, a 356

legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a political 357
contributing entity for any year in which the campaign committee, 358
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 359
party, or political contributing entity is required to file a 360
postprimary election statement under division (A)(2) of this 361
section. However, a statement under division (A)(4) of this 362
section may be filed at the option of the campaign committee, 363
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 364
party, or political contributing entity. 365

No statement under division (A)(3) or (4) of this section 366
shall be required if the campaign committee, political action 367
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 368
political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 369
received and no expenditures that it has made since the last date 370
reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, the 371
campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 372
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 373
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed under 374
this section and made under penalty of election falsification, on 375
the date required in division (A)(3) or (4) of this section, as 376
applicable. 377

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file a 378
monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 379
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 380
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 381
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 382
statement not later than three business days after the last day of 383
the month covered by the statement. During the period beginning on 384
the nineteenth day before the general election in which a 385
statewide candidate seeks election to office and extending through 386
the day of that general election, each time the campaign committee 387
of the joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 388

governor or of a candidate for the office of secretary of state, 389
auditor of state, treasurer of state, or attorney general receives 390
a contribution from a contributor that causes the aggregate amount 391
of contributions received from that contributor during that period 392
to equal or exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign 393
committee of a candidate for the office of chief justice or 394
justice of the supreme court receives a contribution from a 395
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 396
received from that contributor during that period to exceed ten 397
thousand dollars, the campaign committee shall file a 398
two-business-day statement reflecting that contribution. During 399
the period beginning on the nineteenth day before a primary 400
election in which a candidate for statewide office seeks 401
nomination to office and extending through the day of that primary 402
election, each time either the campaign committee of a statewide 403
candidate in that primary election that files a notice under 404
division (C)(1) of section 3517.103 of the Revised Code or the 405
campaign committee of a statewide candidate in that primary 406
election to which, in accordance with division (D) of section 407
3517.103 of the Revised Code, the contribution limitations 408
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code no longer apply 409
receives a contribution from a contributor that causes the 410
aggregate amount of contributions received from that contributor 411
during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, the campaign 412
committee shall file a two-business-day statement reflecting that 413
contribution. Contributions reported on a two-business-day 414
statement required to be filed by a campaign committee of a 415
statewide candidate in a primary election shall also be included 416
in the postprimary election statement required to be filed by that 417
campaign committee under division (A)(2) of this section. A 418
two-business-day statement required by this paragraph shall be 419
filed not later than two business days after receipt of the 420
contribution. The statements required by this paragraph shall be 421

filed in addition to any other statements required by this 422
section. 423

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, 424
and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary 425
of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of 426
this section and division (H)(1) of section 3517.106 of the 427
Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 428
electronic means of transmission, a campaign committee of a 429
statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day statement under 430
the preceding paragraph by electronic means of transmission if the 431
campaign committee is required to file a pre-election, 432
postelection, or monthly statement of contributions and 433
expenditures by electronic means of transmission under this 434
section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 435

If a campaign committee or political action committee has no 436
balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 437
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 438
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 439
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 440
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a final 441
statement of contributions and a final statement of expenditures, 442
if contributions have been received or expenditures made since the 443
period reflected in its last previously filed statement. 444

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(7) of this 445
section, each statement required by division (A) of this section 446
shall contain the following information: 447

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 448
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 449
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 450
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 451
and expenditure statement; 452

(2)(a) In the case of a campaign committee, the candidate's full name and address; 453
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(b) In the case of a political action committee, the registration number assigned to the committee under division (D)(1) of this section. 455
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(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be a general, primary, or special election; 458
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(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall include the following information: 460
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(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 462

(b)(i) The full name and address of each person, political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity from whom contributions are received and the registration number assigned to the political action committee under division (D)(1) of this section. The requirement of filing the full address does not apply to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to a committee recognized by a state or local committee as its fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be considered as being met if the address filed is the same address the contributor provided under division (E)(1) of this section. 463
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(ii) If a political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political party that is required to file campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission under section 3517.106 of the Revised Code or a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate for the office of member of the general assembly receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual 476
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is self-employed, the individual's occupation and the name of the 484
individual's business, if any; 485

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 486
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 487
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 488
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 489
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 490
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 491
(A)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 492
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization of 493
which the employees are members, if any. 494

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other than 495
money; 496

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 497

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and 498
expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a 499
contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or 500
less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a 501
contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the 502
Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries of 503
employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from the 504
wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars or 505
less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total 506
contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall 507
include a description of and the value of each in-kind 508
contribution received at that activity from any person who made 509
one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded two 510
hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, together 511
with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with that 512
activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, 513
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 514
contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from each 515

person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one social 516
or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts deducted 517
under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the wages and 518
salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five dollars or 519
less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing association that 520
is recognized by a state or local committee of a political party 521
as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a contribution from 522
funds derived solely from regular dues paid by members of the 523
auxiliary shall be required to list the name or address of any 524
members who paid those dues. 525

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized 526
separately from all other contributions. The information required 527
under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided for all 528
other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other income" 529
means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 530

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected 531
officer, if a person doing business with the state elected officer 532
in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution to the 533
campaign committee of that officer, the information required under 534
division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that contribution, 535
which shall be filed together with and considered a part of the 536
committee's statement of contributions as required under division 537
(A) of this section but shall be filed on a separate form provided 538
by the secretary of state. As used in this division: 539

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in 540
section 3517.092 of the Revised Code. 541

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer of 542
an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state 543
elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on 544
behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or services, 545
if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than five thousand 546
dollars during a calendar year. 547

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the 548
following information: 549

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure; 550

(b) The full name and address of each person, political 551
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 552
action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the 553
expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the 554
political action committee under division (D)(1) of this section; 555

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was made; 556

(d) The amount of each expenditure. 557

(C)(1) The statement of contributions and expenditures shall 558
be signed by the person completing the form. If a statement of 559
contributions and expenditures is filed by electronic means of 560
transmission pursuant to this section or section 3517.106 of the 561
Revised Code, the electronic signature of the person who executes 562
the statement and transmits the statement by electronic means of 563
transmission, as provided in division (H) of section 3517.106 of 564
the Revised Code, shall be attached to or associated with the 565
statement and shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes 566
under the campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had 567
been handwritten in ink on a printed form. 568

(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of 569
election falsification, shall include with it a list of each 570
anonymous contribution, the circumstances under which it was 571
received, and the reason it cannot be attributed to a specific 572
donor. 573

(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate who 574
holds public office shall contain a designation of each 575
contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under the 576
candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space provided in 577
the statement, the person filing the statement shall affirm that 578

each such contribution was voluntarily made. 579

(4) A campaign committee that did not receive contributions 580
or make expenditures in connection with the nomination or election 581
of its candidate shall file a statement to that effect, on a form 582
prescribed under this section and made under penalty of election 583
falsification, on the date required in division (A)(2) of this 584
section. 585

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to 586
become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become 587
certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for 588
placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 589
election to be held in this state, and who, at any time prior to 590
or after an election, receives contributions or makes 591
expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive 592
contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing 593
about the person's nomination or election to public office, shall 594
file the statement or statements prescribed by this section and a 595
termination statement, if applicable. Division (C)(5) of this 596
section does not apply to any person with respect to an election 597
to the offices of member of a county or state central committee, 598
presidential elector, or delegate to a national convention or 599
conference of a political party. 600

(6)(a) The statements required to be filed under this section 601
shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign committee, 602
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 603
party, or political contributing entity and the disposition 604
intended to be made of that balance. 605

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for all 606
statements required to be filed under this section and shall 607
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 608
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 609
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall prescribe 610

the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file structure for 611
statements required or permitted to be filed by electronic means 612
of transmission under division (A) of this section, divisions (E), 613
(F), and (G) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 614
3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, ~~and~~ division (C) of 615
section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (H) of section 3517.1014 616
of the Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this section, 617
divisions (E), (F), and (G) of section 3517.106, division (D) of 618
section 3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, ~~and~~ division 619
(C) of section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (H) of section 620
3517.1014 of the Revised Code, the statements required to be 621
stored on computer by the secretary of state under division (B) of 622
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in whatever 623
format the secretary of state considers necessary to enable the 624
secretary of state to store the information contained in the 625
statements on computer. Any such format shall be of a type and 626
nature that is readily available to whoever is required to file 627
the statements in that format. 628

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for training 629
regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 630
means of transmission and regarding associated technologies for 631
candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, 632
legislative campaign funds, political parties, or political 633
contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, or other 634
entities, ~~or~~ for persons making disbursements to pay the direct 635
costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, or for 636
treasurers of transition funds, required or permitted to file 637
statements by electronic means of transmission under this section 638
or section 3517.105, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, 639
or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the 640
secretary of state, training in these areas is necessary, the 641
secretary of state shall arrange for the provision of voluntary 642
training programs for candidates, campaign committees, political 643

action committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, 644
or political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 645
and other entities, ~~or~~ for persons making disbursements to pay the 646
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, 647
or for treasurers of transition funds, as appropriate. 648

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 649
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 650
the information required by divisions (B)(1) to (4), (C)(2), and, 651
if appropriate, (C)(3) of this section. Each statement shall be 652
signed as required by division (C)(1) of this section. 653

(D)(1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 654
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action committee, 655
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 656
contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and shall file, on a 657
form prescribed by the secretary of state, a designation of that 658
appointment, including the full name and address of the treasurer 659
and of the campaign committee, political action committee, 660
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 661
contributing entity. That designation shall be filed with the 662
official with whom the campaign committee, political action 663
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 664
political contributing entity is required to file statements under 665
section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name of a campaign 666
committee shall include at least the last name of the campaign 667
committee's candidate. If two or more candidates are the 668
beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under division (B) of 669
section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name of the campaign 670
committee shall include at least the last name of each candidate 671
who is a beneficiary of that campaign committee. The secretary of 672
state shall assign a registration number to each political action 673
committee that files a designation of the appointment of a 674
treasurer under this division if the political action committee is 675

required by division (A)(1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code 676
to file the statements prescribed by this section with the 677
secretary of state. 678

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D)(1) of this 679
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 680
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 681

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 682
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all monetary 683
contributions received by the committee into an account separate 684
from a personal or business account of the candidate or campaign 685
committee. 686

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all monetary 687
contributions received by the committee into an account separate 688
from all other funds. 689

(c) A state or county political party may establish a state 690
candidate fund that is separate from an account that contains the 691
public moneys received from the Ohio political party fund under 692
section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and from all other funds. A 693
state or county political party may deposit into its state 694
candidate fund any amounts of monetary contributions that are made 695
to or accepted by the political party subject to the applicable 696
limitations, if any, prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised 697
Code. A state or county political party shall deposit all other 698
monetary contributions received by the party into one or more 699
accounts that are separate from its state candidate fund and from 700
its account that contains the public moneys received from the Ohio 701
political party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 702

(d) Each state political party shall have only one 703
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general assembly. 704
Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds or accounts 705
of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is authorized to 706

receive contributions and make expenditures for the primary 707
purpose of furthering the election of candidates who are members 708
of that political party to the house of the general assembly with 709
which that legislative campaign fund is associated. Each 710
legislative campaign fund shall be administered and controlled in 711
a manner designated by the caucus. As used in this division, 712
"caucus" has the same meaning as in section 3517.01 of the Revised 713
Code and includes, as an ex officio member, the chairperson of the 714
state political party with which the caucus is associated or that 715
chairperson's designee. 716

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars shall 717
be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of the 718
expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of 719
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of 720
the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division 721
(D)(4) of this section. 722

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as the 723
case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed under 724
this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for a period 725
of at least six years. All statements filed under this section 726
shall be open to public inspection in the office where they are 727
filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of at least 728
six years after the year in which they are filed. 729

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 730
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 731
following: 732

(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and 733
time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are 734
transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary 735
of state pursuant to this section or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 736
3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code; 737

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and 738
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 739
disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 740
disbursement information in the statements described in division 741
(D)(6)(a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve 742
the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 743
deposit and disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation 744
and disbursement information in those statements for at least ten 745
years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means 746
of transmission. 747

(7) The secretary of state, pursuant to division (I) of 748
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available online 749
to the public through the internet the contribution and 750
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 751
disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 752
disbursement information in all statements, all addenda, 753
amendments, or other corrections to statements, and all amended 754
statements filed with the secretary of state by electronic or 755
other means of transmission under this section, division (B)(2)(b) 756
or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 757
3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 758
The secretary of state may remove the information from the 759
internet after a reasonable period of time. 760

(E)(1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 761
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 762
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 763
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or in 764
connection with any ballot issue or question at any election held 765
or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 766
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 767
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 768
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 769

division (D)(1) of this section to the recipient of the 770
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 771

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds one 772
hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 773
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political party 774
or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate 775
for the office of member of the general assembly shall provide the 776
name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the 777
individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation and the 778
name of the individual's business, if any, to the recipient of the 779
contribution at the time the contribution is made. Sections 780
3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not apply to division 781
(E)(2) of this section. 782

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised its 783
best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 784
required under divisions (B)(4)(b)(ii) and (iii) of this section, 785
that committee is considered to have met the requirements of those 786
divisions. A campaign committee shall not be considered to have 787
exercised its best efforts unless, in connection with written 788
solicitations, it regularly includes a written request for the 789
information required under division (B)(4)(b)(ii) of this section 790
from the contributor or the information required under division 791
(B)(4)(b)(iii) of this section from whoever transmits the 792
contribution. 793

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to make 794
a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full name and 795
address of the committee and the registration number assigned to 796
the committee under division (D)(1) of this section. 797

(F) As used in this section: 798

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of 799
this section, "address" means all of the following if they exist: 800

apartment number, street, road, or highway name and number, rural 801
delivery route number, city or village, state, and zip code as 802
used in a person's post-office address, but not post-office box. 803

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of this 804
section, if an address is required in this section, a post-office 805
box and office, room, or suite number may be included in addition 806
to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or highway 807
name and number. 808

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 809
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, 810
political party, or political contributing entity may use the 811
business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 812
treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 813
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 814
party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition to 815
that address. 816

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's reporting 817
of contributions on a statement of contributions received under 818
division (B)(4) of this section, "address" has one of the 819
following meanings at the option of the campaign committee: 820

(i) The same meaning as in division (F)(1)(a) of this 821
section; 822

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the contributor's 823
post-office box number and city or village, state, and zip code as 824
used in the contributor's post-office address. 825

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this section 826
of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following if they 827
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and number, 828
rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and zip code 829
as used in a person's post-office address, or post-office box. If 830
an address concerning any expenditure is required in this section, 831

a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 832
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 833
may use the business or residence address of its treasurer or 834
deputy treasurer or its post-office box number. 835

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for the 836
offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate for the 837
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 838
state, attorney general, member of the state board of education, 839
chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of the supreme 840
court. 841

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for the 842
office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the court of 843
common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas, sheriff, county 844
recorder, county engineer, county commissioner, prosecuting 845
attorney, or coroner. 846

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever and 847
in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be reported 848
under this section and shall be reported pursuant to division 849
(B)(2)(a) or (C)(2)(a) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code. 850

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of 851
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and 852
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign 853
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or 854
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five hundred 855
dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect, under 856
penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the statement 857
required by division (A)(2) of this section. The statement shall 858
indicate the total amount of contributions received and the total 859
amount of expenditures made during those combined reporting 860
periods. 861

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 862

election, if either the total contributions received by or the 863
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee 864
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral 865
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars, 866
the campaign committee may file the statement under division 867
(H)(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first 868
statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 869
general election shall reflect all contributions received and all 870
expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary election 871
periods. 872

(3) Divisions (H)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply if 873
a campaign committee receives contributions or makes expenditures 874
prior to the first day of January of the year of the election at 875
which the candidate seeks nomination or election to office or if 876
the campaign committee does not file a termination statement with 877
its postprimary election statement in the case of an unsuccessful 878
primary election candidate or with its postgeneral election 879
statement in the case of other candidates. 880

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 881
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 882
business from any funds of the partnership or other unincorporated 883
business, all of the following apply: 884

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 885
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 886
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 887
member making the contribution. 888

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 889
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 890
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 891
business, provided that the information includes one of the 892
following: 893

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the date 894
of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 895
total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of the 896
partners, owners, or members; or 897

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the date 898
of the contribution or contributions who is participating in the 899
contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 900
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 901
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 902
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 903
the contribution. 904

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, the 905
contribution shall be considered to have been made by the partner, 906
owner, or member reported under division (I)(1) of this section. 907

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 908
owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 909
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other unincorporated 910
business unless the recipient reports the contribution under 911
division (I)(1) of this section together with the information 912
provided under division (I)(2) of this section. 913

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 914
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 915
partnership or other unincorporated business. 916

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership or 917
other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited to, a 918
cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, a 919
limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a limited 920
liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 921

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at any 922
given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 923
candidate or holds office. 924

(K)(1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment of 925
a treasurer under division (D)(1) of this section, the campaign 926
committee of any candidate for an elected municipal office that 927
pays an annual amount of compensation of five thousand dollars or 928
less, the campaign committee of any candidate for member of a 929
board of education except member of the state board of education, 930
or the campaign committee of any candidate for township trustee or 931
township fiscal officer may sign, under penalty of election 932
falsification, a certificate attesting that the committee will not 933
accept contributions during an election period that exceed in the 934
aggregate two thousand dollars from all contributors and one 935
hundred dollars from any one individual, and that the campaign 936
committee will not make expenditures during an election period 937
that exceed in the aggregate two thousand dollars. 938

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 939
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 940
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and petition, 941
a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to be a write-in 942
candidate. 943

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K)(3) of this 944
section, a campaign committee that files a certificate under 945
division (K)(1) of this section is not required to file the 946
statements required by division (A) of this section. 947

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K)(1) of 948
this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the limitations 949
described in that division during an election period, the 950
certificate is void and thereafter the campaign committee shall 951
file the statements required by division (A) of this section. If 952
the campaign committee has not previously filed a statement, then 953
on the first statement the campaign committee is required to file 954
under division (A) of this section after the committee's 955
certificate is void, the committee shall report all contributions 956

received and expenditures made from the time the candidate filed 957
the candidate's declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 958
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 959

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 960
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 961
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 962
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 963
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 964
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 965
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 966
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 967

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 968
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other assessments 969
of its members or from its officers, shareholders, and employees 970
may report the aggregate amount of contributions received from 971
those contributors and the number of individuals making those 972
contributions, for each filing period under divisions (A)(1), (2), 973
(3), and (4) of this section, rather than reporting information as 974
required under division (B)(4) of this section, including, when 975
applicable, the name of the current employer, if any, of a 976
contributor whose contribution exceeds one hundred dollars or, if 977
such a contributor is self-employed, the contributor's occupation 978
and the name of the contributor's business, if any. Division 979
(B)(4) of this section applies to a political contributing entity 980
with regard to contributions it receives from all other 981
contributors. 982

Sec. 3517.106. (A) As used in this section: 983

(1) "Statewide office" means any of the offices of governor, 984
lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, 985
treasurer of state, attorney general, chief justice of the supreme 986
court, and justice of the supreme court. 987

(2) "Addendum to a statement" includes an amendment or other correction to that statement.	988 989
(B)(1) The secretary of state shall store on computer the information contained in statements of contributions and expenditures and monthly statements required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code and in statements of independent expenditures required to be filed under section 3517.105 of the Revised Code by any of the following:	990 991 992 993 994 995
(a) The campaign committees of candidates for statewide office;	996 997
(b) The political action committees and political contributing entities described in division (A)(1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code;	998 999 1000
(c) Legislative campaign funds;	1001
(d) State political parties;	1002
(e) Individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor organizations, or other entities that make independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question;	1003 1004 1005 1006
(f) The campaign committees of candidates for the office of member of the general assembly;	1007 1008
(g) County political parties, with respect to their state candidate funds.	1009 1010
(2) The secretary of state shall store on computer the information contained in disclosure of electioneering communications statements required to be filed under section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code.	1011 1012 1013 1014
(3) The secretary of state shall store on computer the information contained in deposit and disbursement statements required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state	1015 1016 1017

under section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 1018

(4) The secretary of state shall store on computer the gift 1019
and disbursement information contained in statements required to 1020
be filed with the office of the secretary of state under section 1021
3517.1013 of the Revised Code. 1022

(5) The secretary of state shall store on computer the 1023
information contained in donation and disbursement statements 1024
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 1025
under section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 1026

(C)(1) The secretary of state shall make available to the 1027
campaign committees, political action committees, political 1028
contributing entities, legislative campaign funds, political 1029
parties, individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor 1030
organizations, treasurers of transition funds, and other entities 1031
described in division (B) of this section, and to members of the 1032
news media and other interested persons, for a reasonable fee, 1033
computer programs that are compatible with the secretary of 1034
state's method of storing the information contained in the 1035
statements. 1036

(2) The secretary of state shall make the information 1037
required to be stored under division (B) of this section available 1038
on computer at the secretary of state's office so that, to the 1039
maximum extent feasible, individuals may obtain at the secretary 1040
of state's office any part or all of that information for any 1041
given year, subject to the limitation expressed in division (D) of 1042
this section. 1043

(D) The secretary of state shall keep the information stored 1044
on computer under division (B) of this section for at least six 1045
years. 1046

(E)(1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject to 1047
the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified 1048

the successful operation of any system the secretary of state 1049
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 1050
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1051
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 1052
means of transmission, the campaign committee of each candidate 1053
for statewide office may file the statements prescribed by section 1054
3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission 1055
or, if the total amount of the contributions received or the total 1056
amount of the expenditures made by the campaign committee for the 1057
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 1058
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, 1059
shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission. 1060

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five 1061
business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a 1062
candidate for statewide office is received by the secretary of 1063
state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary 1064
of state shall make available online to the public through the 1065
internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the 1066
contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The 1067
secretary of state shall not make available online to the public 1068
through the internet any contribution or expenditure information 1069
contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary of 1070
state is able to make available online to the public through the 1071
internet the contribution and expenditure information for all 1072
candidates for a particular office, or until the applicable filing 1073
deadline for that statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As 1074
soon as the secretary of state has available all of the 1075
contribution and expenditure information for all candidates for a 1076
particular office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline 1077
for a statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of 1078
state shall simultaneously make available online to the public 1079
through the internet the information for all candidates for that 1080
office. 1081

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1082
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1083
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1084
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign 1085
committee shall file by electronic means of transmission any 1086
addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary 1087
to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the 1088
secretary of state under that division, an amended statement. 1089

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1090
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide 1091
office an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by 1092
electronic or other means of transmission under this division or 1093
division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the 1094
secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure 1095
information in the addendum or amended statement available online 1096
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of 1097
this section. 1098

(2) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1099
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1100
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1101
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1102
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1103
electronic means of transmission, a political action committee and 1104
a political contributing entity described in division (B)(1)(b) of 1105
this section, a legislative campaign fund, and a state political 1106
party may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the 1107
Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total 1108
amount of the contributions received or the total amount of the 1109
expenditures made by the political action committee, political 1110
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political 1111
party for the applicable reporting period as specified in division 1112
(A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 1113

dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 1114
transmission. 1115

Within five business days after a statement filed by a 1116
political action committee or a political contributing entity 1117
described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section, a legislative 1118
campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the 1119
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 1120
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 1121
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 1122
the contribution and expenditure information in that statement. 1123

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1124
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1125
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1126
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political 1127
action committee, political contributing entity, legislative 1128
campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic 1129
means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides 1130
the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, 1131
if required by the secretary of state under that division, an 1132
amended statement. 1133

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1134
receives from a political action committee or a political 1135
contributing entity described in division (B)(1)(b) of this 1136
section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party 1137
an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic 1138
or other means of transmission under this division or division 1139
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 1140
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in 1141
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public 1142
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1143

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1144
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1145

secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1146
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1147
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1148
electronic means of transmission, a county political party shall 1149
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1150
Code with respect to its state candidate fund by electronic means 1151
of transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 1152

Within five business days after a statement filed by a county 1153
political party with respect to its state candidate fund is 1154
received by the secretary of state by electronic means of 1155
transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online 1156
to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of 1157
this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that 1158
statement. 1159

If a statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after 1160
the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy 1161
pursuant to division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1162
Code, a county political party shall file by electronic means of 1163
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the 1164
information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if 1165
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1166
statement. 1167

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1168
receives from a county political party an addendum to the 1169
statement or an amended statement by electronic means of 1170
transmission under this division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 1171
3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the 1172
contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or 1173
amended statement available online to the public through the 1174
internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1175

(F)(1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject to 1176
the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified 1177

the successful operation of any system the secretary of state 1178
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 1179
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1180
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 1181
means of transmission, a campaign committee of a candidate for the 1182
office of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee 1183
of a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals may 1184
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1185
Code in accordance with division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the 1186
Revised Code or by electronic means of transmission to the office 1187
of the secretary of state or, if the total amount of the 1188
contributions received by the campaign committee for the 1189
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 1190
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, 1191
shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission to 1192
the office of the secretary of state. 1193

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five 1194
business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a 1195
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or a 1196
campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a 1197
court of appeals is received by the secretary of state by 1198
electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state 1199
shall make available online to the public through the internet, as 1200
provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and 1201
expenditure information in that statement. The secretary of state 1202
shall not make available online to the public through the internet 1203
any contribution or expenditure information contained in a 1204
statement for any candidate until the secretary of state is able 1205
to make available online to the public through the internet the 1206
contribution and expenditure information for all candidates for a 1207
particular office, or until the applicable filing deadline for 1208
that statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As soon as the 1209
secretary of state has available all of the contribution and 1210

expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1211
office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline for a 1212
statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of state 1213
shall simultaneously make available online to the public through 1214
the internet the information for all candidates for that office. 1215

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1216
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1217
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1218
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign 1219
committee shall file by electronic means of transmission to the 1220
office of the secretary of state any addendum to the statement 1221
that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the 1222
statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that 1223
division, an amended statement. 1224

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1225
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office 1226
of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a 1227
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals an 1228
addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or 1229
other means of transmission under this division or division 1230
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 1231
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in 1232
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public 1233
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1234

(2) If a statement, addendum, or amended statement is not 1235
filed by electronic means of transmission to the office of the 1236
secretary of state but is filed by printed version only under 1237
division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code with the 1238
appropriate board of elections, the campaign committee of a 1239
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or a 1240
campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a 1241
court of appeals shall file two copies of the printed version of 1242

the statement, addendum, or amended statement with the board of 1243
elections. The board of elections shall send one of those copies 1244
by certified mail to the secretary of state before the close of 1245
business on the day the board of elections receives the statement, 1246
addendum, or amended statement. 1247

(G) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1248
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1249
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1250
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1251
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1252
electronic means of transmission, any individual, partnership, or 1253
other entity that makes independent expenditures in support of or 1254
opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or 1255
question as provided in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 1256
3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in 1257
that division by electronic means of transmission or, if the total 1258
amount of independent expenditures made during the reporting 1259
period under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall 1260
file the statement specified in that division by electronic means 1261
of transmission. 1262

Within five business days after a statement filed by an 1263
individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the 1264
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 1265
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 1266
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 1267
the expenditure information in that statement. 1268

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1269
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1270
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1271
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual, 1272
partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of 1273
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the 1274

information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if 1275
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1276
statement. 1277

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1278
receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity 1279
described in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 1280
of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended 1281
statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this 1282
division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1283
Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure 1284
information in the addendum or amended statement available online 1285
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of 1286
this section. 1287

(H)(1) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 1288
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe one or more 1289
techniques by which a person who executes and transmits by 1290
electronic means a statement of contributions and expenditures, a 1291
statement of independent expenditures, a disclosure of 1292
electioneering communications statement, a deposit and 1293
disbursement statement, ~~or~~ a gift and disbursement statement, or a 1294
donation and disbursement statement, an addendum to any of those 1295
statements, an amended statement of contributions and 1296
expenditures, an amended statement of independent expenditures, an 1297
amended disclosure of electioneering communications statement, an 1298
amended deposit and disbursement statement, ~~or~~ an amended gift and 1299
disbursement statement, or an amended donation and disbursement 1300
statement, under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 1301
3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 1302
Code shall electronically sign the statement, addendum, or amended 1303
statement. Any technique prescribed by the secretary of state 1304
pursuant to this division shall create an electronic signature 1305
that satisfies all of the following: 1306

(a) It is unique to the signer. 1307

(b) It objectively identifies the signer. 1308

(c) It involves the use of a signature device or other means 1309
or method that is under the sole control of the signer and that 1310
cannot be readily duplicated or compromised. 1311

(d) It is created and linked to the electronic record to 1312
which it relates in a manner that, if the record or signature is 1313
intentionally or unintentionally changed after signing, the 1314
electronic signature is invalidated. 1315

(2) An electronic signature prescribed by the secretary of 1316
state under division (H)(1) of this section shall be attached to 1317
or associated with the statement of contributions and 1318
expenditures, the statement of independent expenditures, the 1319
disclosure of electioneering communications statement, the deposit 1320
and disbursement statement, ~~or~~ the gift and disbursement 1321
statement, or the donation and disbursement statement, the 1322
addendum to any of those statements, the amended statement of 1323
contributions and expenditures, the amended statement of 1324
independent expenditures, the amended disclosure of electioneering 1325
communications statement, the amended deposit and disbursement 1326
statement, ~~or~~ the amended gift and disbursement statement, or the 1327
amended donation and disbursement statement that is executed and 1328
transmitted by electronic means by the person to whom the 1329
electronic signature is attributed. The electronic signature that 1330
is attached to or associated with the statement, addendum, or 1331
amended statement under this division shall be binding on all 1332
persons and for all purposes under the campaign finance reporting 1333
law as if the signature had been handwritten in ink on a printed 1334
form. 1335

(I) The secretary of state shall make the contribution and 1336
expenditure, the contribution and disbursement, the deposit and 1337

disbursement, ~~or~~ the gift and disbursement, or the donation and 1338
disbursement information in all statements, all addenda to the 1339
statements, and all amended statements that are filed with the 1340
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission 1341
under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 1342
3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code 1343
available online to the public by any means that are searchable, 1344
viewable, and accessible through the internet. 1345

(J)(1) As used in this division, "library" means a library 1346
that is open to the public and that is one of the following: 1347

(a) A library that is maintained and regulated under section 1348
715.13 of the Revised Code; 1349

(b) A library that is created, maintained, and regulated 1350
under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code. 1351

(2) The secretary of state shall notify all libraries of the 1352
location on the internet at which the contribution and 1353
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 1354
disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 1355
disbursement information in campaign finance statements required 1356
to be made available online to the public through the internet 1357
pursuant to division (I) of this section may be accessed. 1358

If that location is part of the world wide web and if the 1359
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web 1360
location as required by this division, the library shall include a 1361
link to that world wide web location on each internet-connected 1362
computer it maintains that is accessible to the public. 1363

(3) If the system the secretary of state prescribes for the 1364
filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of 1365
transmission pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 1366
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1367
Code includes filing those statements through the internet via the 1368

world wide web, the secretary of state shall notify all libraries 1369
of the world wide web location at which those statements may be 1370
filed. 1371

If those statements may be filed through the internet via the 1372
world wide web and if the secretary of state has notified a 1373
library of that world wide web location as required by this 1374
division, the library shall include a link to that world wide web 1375
location on each internet-connected computer it maintains that is 1376
accessible to the public. 1377

(K) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint or charge 1378
brought against any campaign committee, political action 1379
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1380
fund, or political party, any individual, partnership, or other 1381
entity, ~~or~~ any person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1382
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or any 1383
treasurer of a transition fund, for the failure to file by 1384
electronic means of transmission a campaign finance statement as 1385
required by this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 1386
3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code that all 1387
of the following apply to the campaign committee, political action 1388
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1389
fund, or political party, the individual, partnership, or other 1390
entity, ~~or~~ the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1391
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1392
treasurer of a transition fund that failed to so file: 1393

1394
(1) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1395
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1396
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 1397
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1398
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1399
treasurer of a transition fund attempted to file by electronic 1400

means of transmission the required statement prior to the deadline 1401
set forth in the applicable section. 1402

(2) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1403
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1404
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 1405
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1406
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1407
treasurer of a transition fund was unable to file by electronic 1408
means of transmission due to an expected or unexpected shutdown of 1409
the whole or part of the electronic campaign finance 1410
statement-filing system, such as for maintenance or because of 1411
hardware, software, or network connection failure. 1412

(3) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1413
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1414
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 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 filed by electronic means of 1418
transmission the required statement within a reasonable period of 1419
time after being unable to so file it under the circumstance 1420
described in division (K)(2) of this section. 1421

(L)(1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 1422
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to permit a campaign committee of 1423
a candidate for statewide office that makes expenditures of less 1424
than twenty-five thousand dollars during the filing period or a 1425
campaign committee for the office of member of the general 1426
assembly or the office of judge of a court of appeals that would 1427
otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements by 1428
electronic means of transmission under division (E) or (F) of this 1429
section to file those statements by paper with the office of the 1430
secretary of state. Those rules shall provide for all of the 1431
following: 1432

(a) An eligible campaign committee that wishes to file a 1433
campaign finance statement by paper instead of by electronic means 1434
of transmission shall file the statement on paper with the office 1435
of the secretary of state not sooner than twenty-four hours after 1436
the end of the filing period set forth in section 3517.10 of the 1437
Revised Code that is covered by the applicable statement. 1438

(b) The statement shall be accompanied by a fee, the amount 1439
of which the secretary of state shall determine by rule. The 1440
amount of the fee established under this division shall not exceed 1441
the data entry and data verification costs the secretary of state 1442
will incur to convert the information on the statement to an 1443
electronic format as required under division (I) of this section. 1444

(c) The secretary of state shall arrange for the information 1445
in campaign finance statements filed pursuant to division (L) of 1446
this section to be made available online to the public through the 1447
internet in the same manner, and at the same times, as information 1448
is made available under divisions (E), (F), and (I) of this 1449
section for candidates whose campaign committees file those 1450
statements by electronic means of transmission. 1451

(d) The candidate of an eligible campaign committee that 1452
intends to file a campaign finance statement pursuant to division 1453
(L) of this section shall file a notice indicating that the 1454
candidate's campaign committee intends to so file and stating that 1455
filing the statement by electronic means of transmission would 1456
constitute a hardship for the candidate or for the eligible 1457
campaign committee. 1458

(e) An eligible campaign committee that files a campaign 1459
finance statement on paper pursuant to division (L) of this 1460
section shall review the contribution and information made 1461
available online by the secretary of state with respect to that 1462
paper filing and shall notify the secretary of state of any errors 1463
with respect to that filing that appear in the data made available 1464

on that web site. 1465

(f) If an eligible campaign committee whose candidate has 1466
filed a notice in accordance with rules adopted under division 1467
(L)(1)(d) of this section subsequently fails to file that 1468
statement on paper by the applicable deadline established in rules 1469
adopted under division (L)(1)(a) of this section, penalties for 1470
the late filing of the campaign finance statement shall apply to 1471
that campaign committee for each day after that paper filing 1472
deadline, as if the campaign committee had filed the statement 1473
after the applicable deadline set forth in division (A) of section 1474
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1475

(2) The process for permitting campaign committees that would 1476
otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements by 1477
electronic means of transmission to file those statements on paper 1478
with the office of the secretary of state that is required to be 1479
developed under division (L)(1) of this section shall be in effect 1480
and available for use by eligible campaign committees for all 1481
campaign finance statements that are required to be filed on or 1482
after June 30, 2005. Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised 1483
Code to the contrary, if the process the secretary of state is 1484
required to develop under division (L)(1) of this section is not 1485
in effect and available for use on and after June 30, 2005, all 1486
penalties for the failure of campaign committees to file campaign 1487
finance statements by electronic means of transmission shall be 1488
suspended until such time as that process is in effect and 1489
available for use. 1490

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to the 1491
contrary, any eligible campaign committee that files campaign 1492
finance statements on paper with the office of the secretary of 1493
state pursuant to division (L)(1) of this section shall be deemed 1494
to have filed those campaign finance statements by electronic 1495
means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 1496

<u>Sec. 3517.1014. (A) As used in this section:</u>	1497
<u>(1) "Donation" means a gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money, or anything of value that is specifically designated and used to defray any costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations and that is not used for the purpose of directly influencing the election of any candidate for any office.</u>	1498 1499 1500 1501 1502 1503
<u>(2) "Costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations" means legitimate and verifiable costs that are incurred for ordinary and necessary activities associated with either of the following:</u>	1504 1505 1506 1507
<u>(a) The transfer of power or authority from one state officeholder to another following a general or special election or appointment to office;</u>	1508 1509 1510
<u>(b) Ceremonies, events, or activities commemorating the commencement of a term or the commencement of an unexpired term of a state officeholder.</u>	1511 1512 1513
<u>"Costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations" includes, but is not limited to, costs incurred for office expenses; salaries for transition personnel; consulting fees; and food, beverages, entertainment, and incidental gifts at an inaugural celebration.</u>	1514 1515 1516 1517 1518
<u>(3) "State officeholder" means a person who has been elected or appointed to a statewide office.</u>	1519 1520
<u>(4) "Statewide office" means the joint offices of governor and lieutenant governor or the office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state, or attorney general.</u>	1521 1522 1523
<u>(B)(1) A state officeholder may establish a transition fund to receive donations and to pay costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations. The state officeholder</u>	1524 1525 1526

shall file a statement with the secretary of state establishing 1527
the fund and designating a treasurer for the fund. The secretary 1528
of state shall specify, by rule, the form of the statement. 1529

(2) A state officeholder may establish a transition fund: 1530

(a) After the unofficial results of the election at which the 1531
person seeks election to statewide office have been announced, if 1532
the number of ballots outstanding for that election are 1533
insufficient to change the unofficial election results; 1534

(b) After the canvass of the election returns has been 1535
completed for the election at which the person seeks election to 1536
statewide office, if the number of ballots outstanding for that 1537
election after the unofficial results of the election were 1538
announced were sufficient to potentially change the unofficial 1539
election results; 1540

(c) After the person has been appointed to fill a vacancy in 1541
an unexpired term of a statewide office. 1542

(C)(1) Any person, including a for-profit corporation, may 1543
make a donation to a transition fund. 1544

(2) No state officeholder shall accept a donation unless both 1545
of the following apply: 1546

(a) The state officeholder has established a transition fund 1547
under division (B) of this section; and 1548

(b) The donation is deposited to the credit of that fund. 1549

(D)(1) The treasurer of a transition fund shall keep a strict 1550
account of all donations to the fund and all disbursements from 1551
the fund. 1552

(2) The treasurer of a transition fund shall file, by 1553
electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of 1554
state, a full, true, and itemized statement describing each 1555
donation received and each disbursement made from the fund not 1556

later than seven days after the donation was received or the 1557
disbursement was made. 1558

(3) Each statement required under division (D)(2) of this 1559
section shall contain the following information: 1560

(a) The full name and address of the treasurer filing the 1561
statement and the full name and address of the state officeholder 1562
who is the beneficiary of the transition fund; 1563

(b) If the statement is reporting a donation to the 1564
transition fund, a description of the donation received, which 1565
shall include all of the following: 1566

(i) The month, day, and year on which the donation was 1567
received; 1568

(ii) The full name and address of each donor; 1569

(iii) The nature of the donation, if other than money; 1570

(iv) The value of the donation in dollars and cents. 1571

(c) If the statement is reporting a disbursement from the 1572
transition fund, a description of the disbursement, which shall 1573
include all of the following: 1574

(i) The name and address of the recipient of the 1575
disbursement; 1576

(ii) The date of the disbursement; 1577

(iii) The amount of the disbursement; 1578

(iv) The purpose for which the disbursement was made. 1579

(E)(1) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail 1580
to file a statement required to be filed under this section. 1581

(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to 1582
report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a donation required to be 1583
reported on a statement required to be filed under this section. 1584

(3) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a disbursement required to be reported on a statement required to be filed under this section. 1585
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(F) Upon request, the secretary of state shall issue a receipt for each statement filed under this section. The secretary of state shall maintain a record of the filing for at least ten years. All statements filed under this section shall be open to public inspection in the office in which they are filed. 1589
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(G)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(1) of this section, no treasurer of a transition fund shall make a disbursement from the fund for a purpose other than to pay costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations. 1594
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(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall make a disbursement from the fund to make a contribution to a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 1598
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(3) No treasurer of a transition fund shall make a disbursement from the fund to reimburse any personal expenses of the beneficiary of the transition fund, except to reimburse the beneficiary of the transition fund for costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations. 1602
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(H)(1) After the payment of all costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations, the treasurer of the transition fund shall dispose of any assets remaining in the transition fund prior to the sixtieth day after the day the state officeholder takes office by doing any of the following: 1607
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(a) Giving the amount to the treasurer of state for deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio elections commission fund created by division (I) of section 3517.152 of the Revised Code; 1612
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(b) Giving the amount to individuals who made donations to that transition fund as a refund of all or part of their donations; 1616
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(c) Giving the amount to a corporation that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. 1619
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(2) Not later than sixty-seven days after the day the state officeholder takes office, the treasurer of the transition fund shall file a final statement of donations and disbursements under division (D) of this section describing the disbursements made under division (H)(1) of this section. Upon the filing of that statement, the transition fund shall cease to exist. 1622
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Sec. 3517.11. (A)(1) Campaign committees of candidates for 1628
statewide office or the state board of education, political action 1629
committees or political contributing entities that make 1630
contributions to campaign committees of candidates that are 1631
required to file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 1632
the Revised Code with the secretary of state, political action 1633
committees or political contributing entities that make 1634
contributions to campaign committees of candidates for member of 1635
the general assembly, political action committees or political 1636
contributing entities that make contributions to state and 1637
national political parties and to legislative campaign funds, 1638
political action committees or political contributing entities 1639
that receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with 1640
a statewide ballot issue, political action committees or political 1641
contributing entities that make contributions to other political 1642
action committees or political contributing entities, political 1643
parties, and campaign committees, except as set forth in division 1644
(A)(3) of this section, legislative campaign funds, and state and 1645
national political parties shall file the statements prescribed by 1646

section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the secretary of state. 1647

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of 1648
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, campaign committees of 1649
candidates for all other offices shall file the statements 1650
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board 1651
of elections where their candidates are required to file their 1652
petitions or other papers for nomination or election. 1653

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for office of member 1654
of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate for 1655
the office of judge of a court of appeals shall file two copies of 1656
the printed version of any statement, addendum, or amended 1657
statement if the committee does not file pursuant to division 1658
(F)(1) or (L) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code but files by 1659
printed version only with the appropriate board of elections. The 1660
board of elections shall send one of those copies by certified 1661
mail to the secretary of state before the close of business on the 1662
day the board of elections receives the statement, addendum, or 1663
amended statement. 1664

(3) Political action committees or political contributing 1665
entities that only contribute to a county political party, 1666
contribute to campaign committees of candidates whose nomination 1667
or election is to be submitted only to electors within a county, 1668
subdivision, or district, excluding candidates for member of the 1669
general assembly, and receive contributions or make expenditures 1670
in connection with ballot questions or issues to be submitted only 1671
to electors within a county, subdivision, or district shall file 1672
the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1673
with the board of elections in that county or in the county 1674
contained in whole or part within the subdivision or district 1675
having a population greater than that of any other county 1676
contained in whole or part within that subdivision or district, as 1677
the case may be. 1678

(4) Except as otherwise provided in division (E)(3) of 1679
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code with respect to state 1680
candidate funds, county political parties shall file the 1681
statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with 1682
the board of elections of their respective counties. 1683

(B)(1) The official with whom petitions and other papers for 1684
nomination or election to public office are filed shall furnish 1685
each candidate at the time of that filing a copy of sections 1686
3517.01, 3517.08 to 3517.11, 3517.13 to 3517.993, 3599.03, and 1687
3599.031 of the Revised Code and any other materials that the 1688
secretary of state may require. Each candidate receiving the 1689
materials shall acknowledge their receipt in writing. 1690

(2) On or before the tenth day before the dates on which 1691
statements are required to be filed by section 3517.10 of the 1692
Revised Code, every candidate subject to the provisions of this 1693
section and sections 3517.10 and 3517.106 of the Revised Code 1694
shall be notified of the requirements and applicable penalties of 1695
those sections. The secretary of state, by certified mail, return 1696
receipt requested, shall notify all candidates required to file 1697
those statements with the secretary of state's office. The board 1698
of elections of every county shall notify by first class mail any 1699
candidate who has personally appeared at the office of the board 1700
on or before the tenth day before the statements are required to 1701
be filed and signed a form, to be provided by the secretary of 1702
state, attesting that the candidate has been notified of the 1703
candidate's obligations under the campaign finance law. The board 1704
shall forward the completed form to the secretary of state. The 1705
board shall use certified mail, return receipt requested, to 1706
notify all other candidates required to file those statements with 1707
it. 1708

(3)(a) Any statement required to be filed under sections 1709
3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code that is found to be 1710

incomplete or inaccurate by the officer to whom it is submitted 1711
shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the person who filed 1712
it shall be notified by certified mail as to the incomplete or 1713
inaccurate nature of the statement. The secretary of state may 1714
examine statements filed for candidates for the office of member 1715
of the general assembly and candidates for the office of judge of 1716
a court of appeals for completeness and accuracy. The secretary of 1717
state shall examine for completeness and accuracy statements that 1718
campaign committees of candidates for the office of member of the 1719
general assembly and campaign committees of candidates for the 1720
office of judge of a court of appeals file pursuant to division 1721
(F) or (L) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. If an officer 1722
at the board of elections where a statement filed for a candidate 1723
for the office of member of the general assembly or for a 1724
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals was 1725
submitted finds the statement to be incomplete or inaccurate, the 1726
officer shall immediately notify the secretary of state of its 1727
incomplete or inaccurate nature. If either an officer at the board 1728
of elections or the secretary of state finds a statement filed for 1729
a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or 1730
for a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals to 1731
be incomplete or inaccurate, only the secretary of state shall 1732
send the notification as to the incomplete or inaccurate nature of 1733
the statement. 1734

Within twenty-one days after receipt of the notice, in the 1735
case of a pre-election statement, a postelection statement, a 1736
monthly statement, an annual statement, or a semiannual statement 1737
prescribed by section 3517.10, an annual statement prescribed by 1738
section 3517.101, or a statement prescribed by division (B)(2)(b) 1739
or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 or section 3517.107 of the 1740
Revised Code, the recipient shall file an addendum, amendment, or 1741
other correction to the statement providing the information 1742
necessary to complete or correct the statement. The secretary of 1743

state may require that, in lieu of filing an addendum, amendment, 1744
or other correction to a statement that is filed by electronic 1745
means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state 1746
pursuant to section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the recipient of 1747
the notice described in this division file by electronic means of 1748
transmission an amended statement that incorporates the 1749
information necessary to complete or correct the statement. 1750

The secretary of state shall determine by rule when an 1751
addendum, amendment, or other correction to any of the following 1752
or when an amended statement of any of the following shall be 1753
filed: 1754

(i) A two-business-day statement prescribed by section 1755
3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1756

(ii) A disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1757
prescribed by division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised 1758
Code; 1759

(iii) A deposit and disbursement statement prescribed under 1760
division (B) of section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 1761

(iv) A gift and disbursement statement prescribed under 1762
section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code; 1763

(v) A donation and disbursement statement prescribed under 1764
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 1765

An addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement 1766
that is filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to 1767
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in the same 1768
manner as the statement. 1769

The provisions of sections 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 1770
3517.1012, ~~and~~ 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code 1771
pertaining to the filing of statements of contributions and 1772
expenditures, statements of independent expenditures, disclosure 1773

of electioneering communications statements, deposit and 1774
disbursement statements, ~~and~~ gift and disbursement statements, and 1775
donation and disbursement statements by electronic means of 1776
transmission apply to the filing of addenda, amendments, or other 1777
corrections to those statements by electronic means of 1778
transmission and the filing of amended statements by electronic 1779
means of transmission. 1780

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 1781
receives, by electronic or other means of transmission, an 1782
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or an 1783
amended statement under division (B)(3)(a) of this section, the 1784
secretary of state, pursuant to divisions (E), (F), (G), and (I) 1785
of section 3517.106 or division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the 1786
Revised Code, shall make the contribution and expenditure, 1787
contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, ~~or~~ gift 1788
and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in that 1789
addendum, amendment, correction, or amended statement available 1790
online to the public through the internet. 1791

(4)(a) The secretary of state or the board of elections shall 1792
examine all statements for compliance with sections 3517.08 to 1793
3517.17 of the Revised Code. 1794

(b) The secretary of state may contract with an individual or 1795
entity not associated with the secretary of state and experienced 1796
in interpreting the campaign finance law of this state to conduct 1797
examinations of statements filed by any statewide candidate, as 1798
defined in section 3517.103 of the Revised Code. 1799

(c) The examination shall be conducted by a person or entity 1800
qualified to conduct it. The results of the examination shall be 1801
available to the public, and, when the examination is conducted by 1802
an individual or entity not associated with the secretary of 1803
state, the results of the examination shall be reported to the 1804
secretary of state. 1805

(C)(1) In the event of a failure to file or a late filing of a statement required to be filed under sections 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code, or if a filed statement or any addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or any amended statement, if an addendum, amendment, or other correction or an amended statement is required to be filed, is incomplete or inaccurate or appears to disclose a failure to comply with or a violation of law, the official whose duty it is to examine the statement shall promptly file a complaint with the Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code if the law is one over which the commission has jurisdiction to hear complaints, or the official shall promptly report the failure or violation to the board of elections and the board shall promptly report it to the prosecuting attorney in accordance with division (J) of section 3501.11 of the Revised Code. If the official files a complaint with the commission, the commission shall proceed in accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code.

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

(D) No certificate of nomination or election shall be issued 1838
to a person, and no person elected to an office shall enter upon 1839
the performance of the duties of that office, until that person or 1840
that person's campaign committee, as appropriate, has fully 1841
complied with this section and sections 3517.08, 3517.081, 1842
3517.10, and 3517.13 of the Revised Code. 1843

Sec. 3517.153. (A) Upon the filing of a complaint with the 1844
Ohio elections commission, which shall be made by affidavit of any 1845
person, on personal knowledge, and subject to the penalties for 1846
perjury, or upon the filing of a complaint made by the secretary 1847
of state or an official at the board of elections, setting forth a 1848
failure to comply with or a violation of any provision in sections 1849
3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, 1850
or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, the commission shall proceed in 1851
accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. 1852

(B) The commission shall prescribe the form for complaints 1853
made under division (A) of this section. The secretary of state 1854
and boards of elections shall furnish the information that the 1855
commission requests. The commission or a member of the commission 1856
may administer oaths, and the commission may issue subpoenas to 1857
any person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 1858
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. 1859
Section 101.42 of the Revised Code governs the issuance of 1860
subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any person to 1861
obey a subpoena or to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the 1862
commission may apply to the court of common pleas of Franklin 1863
county under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall 1864
hold proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised 1865
Code. 1866

(C) No prosecution shall commence for a violation of a 1867
provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 1868

3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code 1869
unless a complaint has been filed with the commission under this 1870
section and all proceedings of the commission or a panel of the 1871
commission, as appropriate, under sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of 1872
the Revised Code are completed. 1873

(D) The commission may recommend legislation and render 1874
advisory opinions concerning sections 3517.08, 3517.082, 3517.092, 1875
3517.102, 3517.103, 3517.105, 3517.1014, 3517.13, 3517.18, 3517.20 1876
to 3517.22, 3599.03, and 3599.031 of the Revised Code for persons 1877
over whose acts it has or may have jurisdiction. When the 1878
commission renders an advisory opinion relating to a specific set 1879
of circumstances involving any of those sections stating that 1880
there is no violation of a provision in those sections, the person 1881
to whom the opinion is directed or a person who is similarly 1882
situated may reasonably rely on the opinion and is immune from 1883
criminal prosecution and a civil action, including, without 1884
limitation, a civil action for removal from public office or 1885
employment, based on facts and circumstances covered by the 1886
opinion. 1887

(E) The commission shall establish a web site on which it 1888
shall post, at a minimum, all decisions and advisory opinions 1889
issued by the commission and copies of each election law as it is 1890
amended by the general assembly. The commission shall update the 1891
web site regularly to reflect any changes to those decisions and 1892
advisory opinions and any new decisions and advisory opinions. 1893

Sec. 3517.154. (A)(1) The full-time attorney for the Ohio 1894
elections commission shall review each complaint filed with the 1895
commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code, shall 1896
determine the nature of the complaint, and, unless division 1897
(A)(2)(a) of this section requires that the complaint receive an 1898
automatic expedited hearing, shall make a recommendation to the 1899

commission for its disposition, in accordance with this section. 1900
The attorney shall make the determination and the recommendation, 1901
if required, not later than one business day after the complaint 1902
is filed. 1903

(2)(a) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets 1904
forth a violation of division (B) of section 3517.21 or division 1905
(B) of section 3517.22 of the Revised Code and that the complaint 1906
is filed during one of the periods of time specified in division 1907
(B)(1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, or that the 1908
complaint sets forth a violation of section 3517.103 of the 1909
Revised Code or a violation described in division (D) of section 1910
3517.1010 of the Revised Code, the complaint shall receive an 1911
automatic expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised 1912
Code. 1913

(b) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets forth 1914
a failure to comply with or a violation of division (G), (I), (J), 1915
(O), (P), or (Q) of section 3517.13, division (A) of section 1916
3517.21, or division (A) of section 3517.22 of the Revised Code 1917
and that the complaint is filed during one of the periods of time 1918
specified in division (B)(1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised 1919
Code, the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the 1920
complaint receive an expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of 1921
the Revised Code, and the complaint shall receive such a hearing. 1922

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets forth 1923
a failure to comply with or a violation of a section of the 1924
Revised Code over which the commission has jurisdiction to hear 1925
complaints other than the sections described in divisions 1926
(A)(2)(a) and (b) of this section, and unless the attorney makes a 1927
determination as provided for in division (A)(3) of this section, 1928
the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the complaint 1929
be submitted to the commission under section 3517.155 of the 1930
Revised Code. After the attorney makes that recommendation, the 1931

attorney shall notify all parties to the complaint of the attorney's recommendation.

(3)(a) If a complaint sets forth a failure to comply with or a violation of a section of the Revised Code over which the commission has jurisdiction to hear complaints other than the sections described in divisions (A)(2)(a) and (b) of this section and if the complaint is filed during one of the periods of time specified in division (B)(1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the attorney may determine that the complaint should receive an expedited hearing under that section. The attorney shall make that determination by considering one or more of the following:

(i) The number of prior failures to comply with or violations of Title XXXV of the Revised Code that the person or entity against whom the complaint has been brought has committed and any prior penalties the commission has imposed on the person or entity;

(ii) If the complaint involves a statement required to be filed under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.103, 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 3517.109, 3517.1011, ~~or~~ 3517.1012, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code or an addendum required to be filed under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code that is filed late, how late the filing is and how much time has elapsed between the deadline for filing the statement or addendum and the filing of the complaint;

(iii) If the complaint involves contributions and expenditures, contributions and disbursements, deposits and disbursements, ~~or~~ gifts and disbursements, or donations and disbursements required to be reported under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 3517.109, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code that are either not reported or reported late, the number of contributions and expenditures,

contributions and disbursements, deposits and disbursements, ~~or~~ 1964
gifts and disbursements, or donations and disbursements not 1965
reported or how late they were reported; 1966

(iv) If the complaint involves contributions required to be 1967
reported by a campaign committee under section 3517.10, division 1968
(E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 1969
or 3517.109 of the Revised Code that are not reported, whether any 1970
of the contributors of the contributions not reported have a 1971
personal or professional relationship with the campaign 1972
committee's candidate; 1973

(v) If the complaint involves a statement required to be 1974
filed under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, or 1975
section 3517.103, 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 3517.109, 1976
3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 1977
Code that is incomplete, the degree to which it is incomplete; 1978

(vi) If the complaint involves the receipt of contributions 1979
in violation of section 3599.03 of the Revised Code, the dollar 1980
amount and number of contributions received in violation of that 1981
section; 1982

(vii) If the complaint involves a failure to make the 1983
identification or a misstatement of the identification required 1984
under section 3517.105 or 3517.20 of the Revised Code, whether the 1985
failure or misstatement was purposely made; 1986

(viii) If the complaint sets forth a failure to comply with 1987
or a violation of a section of the Revised Code described in 1988
division (A)(2)(c) of this section, whether the person or entity 1989
against whom the complaint has been made has committed more than 1990
one such failure or violation within a reasonable amount of time, 1991
or whether the cumulative nature of the failures or violations 1992
indicates a systematic disregard for the law. 1993

(b) Prior to making a determination under division (A)(3)(a) 1994

of this section that the complaint should receive an expedited 1995
hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the attorney 1996
shall take into consideration the number of panels of the 1997
commission that have cases pending before them and the number of 1998
cases pending before the panels and shall not make a determination 1999
that will place an undue burden on a panel of the commission. 2000

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint should 2001
receive an expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised 2002
Code, the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the 2003
complaint receive an expedited hearing, and, if a majority of the 2004
members of the commission agrees with the recommendation, the 2005
complaint shall receive an expedited hearing under that section. 2006

(4) The attorney may join two or more complaints if the 2007
attorney determines that the allegations in each complaint are of 2008
the same or similar character, are based on the same act or 2009
failure to act, or are based on two or more acts or failures to 2010
act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If one 2011
complaint contains two or more allegations, the attorney may 2012
separate the allegations if they are not of the same or similar 2013
character, if they are not based on the same act or failure to 2014
act, or if they are not based on two or more acts or failures to 2015
act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If the attorney 2016
separates the allegations in a complaint, the attorney may make 2017
separate recommendations under division (A)(2) or (3) of this 2018
section for each allegation. 2019

(B) Whenever a person or other entity files a complaint with 2020
the commission setting forth a failure to comply with or a 2021
violation of a section of the Revised Code as described in 2022
division (A)(2)(c) of this section and the complaint is filed 2023
during one of the periods of time specified in division (B)(1) of 2024
section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the person or entity may 2025
request an expedited hearing under that section at the time the 2026

complaint is filed. The attorney for the commission shall inform 2027
the members of the commission of that request at the time the 2028
attorney makes a recommendation under division (A) of this 2029
section. The commission may grant the request for an expedited 2030
hearing under this division if it determines that an expedited 2031
hearing is practicable. 2032

Sec. 3517.992. This section establishes penalties only with 2033
respect to acts or failures to act that occur on and after August 2034
24, 1995. 2035

(A)(1) A candidate whose campaign committee violates division 2036
(A), (B), (C), (D), or (V) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, 2037
or a treasurer of a campaign committee who violates any of those 2038
divisions, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for 2039
each day of violation. 2040

(2) Whoever violates division (E) or (X)(5) of section 2041
3517.13 or division (E)(1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 2042
Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each day 2043
of violation. 2044

(B) A political party that violates division (F)(1) of 2045
section 3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2046
one hundred dollars for each day of violation. 2047

(C) Whoever violates division (F)(2) of section 3517.101 ~~or~~ 2048
division (G) of section 3517.13, or division (E)(2) or (3) of 2049
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2050
ten thousand dollars or, if the offender is a person who was 2051
nominated or elected to public office, shall forfeit the 2052
nomination or the office to which the offender was elected, or 2053
both. 2054

(D) Whoever violates division (F) of section 3517.13 of the 2055
Revised Code shall be fined not more than three times the amount 2056

contributed. 2057

(E) Whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars. 2058
2059

(F) Whoever violates division (O), (P), or (Q) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 2060
2061
2062

(G) A state or county committee of a political party that violates division (B)(1) of section 3517.18 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than twice the amount of the improper expenditure. 2063
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(H) A state or county political party that violates division (G) of section 3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than twice the amount of the improper expenditure or use. 2067
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2069

(I)(1) Any individual who violates division (B)(1) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code and knows that the contribution the individual makes violates that division shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2070
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(2) Any political action committee that violates division (B)(2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2075
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(3) Any campaign committee that violates division (B)(3) or (5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division. 2079
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(4)(a) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division (B)(6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted by that division, as applicable. 2083
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2086

(b) Any state political party, county political party, or 2087
state candidate fund of a state political party or county 2088
political party that violates division (B)(6) of section 3517.102 2089
of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times 2090
the amount transferred or contributed in excess of the amount 2091
permitted by that division, as applicable. 2092

(c) Any political contributing entity that violates division 2093
(B)(7) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2094
amount equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of 2095
the amount permitted by that division. 2096

(5) Any political party that violates division (B)(4) of 2097
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2098
equal to three times the amount contributed in excess of the 2099
amount permitted by that division. 2100

(6) Notwithstanding divisions (I)(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) 2101
of this section, no violation of division (B) of section 3517.102 2102
of the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state shall not 2103
refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the amount 2104
transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted by 2105
that division meets either of the following conditions: 2106

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days after 2107
it is accepted. 2108

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth business 2109
day after notification to the recipient of the excess transfer or 2110
contribution by the board of elections or the secretary of state 2111
that a transfer or contribution in excess of the permitted amount 2112
has been received. 2113

(J)(1) Any campaign committee that violates division (C)(1), 2114
(2), (3), or (6) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2115
fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess 2116
of the amount permitted by that division. 2117

(2)(a) Any county political party that violates division 2118
(C)(4)(a)(ii) or (iii) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 2119
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted. 2120

(b) Any county political party that violates division 2121
(C)(4)(a)(i) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2122
fined an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times 2123
the amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2124
division. 2125

(c) Any state political party that violates division 2126
(C)(4)(b) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2127
an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 2128
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2129
division. 2130

(3) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2131
(C)(5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2132
amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess of the 2133
amount permitted by that division. 2134

(4) Any political action committee or political contributing 2135
entity that violates division (C)(7) of section 3517.102 of the 2136
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2137
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2138
division. 2139

(5) Notwithstanding divisions (J)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of 2140
this section, no violation of division (C) of section 3517.102 of 2141
the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state shall not 2142
refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the amount 2143
transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted to be 2144
accepted by that division meets either of the following 2145
conditions: 2146

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days after 2147
its acceptance. 2148

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth business 2149
day after notification to the recipient of the excess transfer or 2150
contribution by the board of elections or the secretary of state 2151
that a transfer or contribution in excess of the permitted amount 2152
has been received. 2153

(K)(1) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2154
(F)(1) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2155
twenty-five dollars for each day of violation. 2156

(2) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2157
(F)(2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall give to the 2158
treasurer of state for deposit into the state treasury to the 2159
credit of the Ohio elections commission fund all excess 2160
contributions not disposed of as required by division (E) of 2161
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. 2162

(L) Whoever violates section 3517.105 of the Revised Code 2163
shall be fined one thousand dollars. 2164

(M)(1) Whoever solicits a contribution in violation of 2165
section 3517.092 or violates division (B) of section 3517.09 of 2166
the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 2167

(2) Whoever knowingly accepts a contribution in violation of 2168
division (B) or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code shall 2169
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in 2170
violation of either of those divisions and shall return to the 2171
contributor any amount so accepted. Whoever unknowingly accepts a 2172
contribution in violation of division (B) or (C) of section 2173
3517.092 of the Revised Code shall return to the contributor any 2174
amount so accepted. 2175

(N) Whoever violates division (S) of section 3517.13 of the 2176
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2177
amount of funds transferred or three times the value of the assets 2178
transferred in violation of that division. 2179

(O) Any campaign committee that accepts a contribution or 2180
contributions in violation of section 3517.108 of the Revised 2181
Code, uses a contribution in violation of that section, or fails 2182
to dispose of excess contributions in violation of that section 2183
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted, 2184
used, or kept in violation of that section. 2185

(P) Any political party, state candidate fund, legislative 2186
candidate fund, or campaign committee that violates division (T) 2187
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2188
equal to three times the amount contributed or accepted in 2189
violation of that section. 2190

(Q) A treasurer of a committee or another person who violates 2191
division (U) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2192
not more than two hundred fifty dollars. 2193

(R) Whoever violates division (I) or (J) of section 3517.13 2194
of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand 2195
dollars. Whenever a person is found guilty of violating division 2196
(I) or (J) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, the contract 2197
awarded in violation of either of those divisions shall be 2198
rescinded if its terms have not yet been performed. 2199

(S) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2200
treasurer of a campaign committee who violates section 3517.081 of 2201
the Revised Code, and a candidate whose campaign committee 2202
violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or another person 2203
who violates division (C) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, 2204
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2205

(T) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2206
treasurer of a committee who violates division (B) of section 2207
3517.09 of the Revised Code, or a candidate whose campaign 2208
committee violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or 2209
another person who violates division (C) of section 3517.09 of the 2210

Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars. 2211

(U) Whoever violates section 3517.20 of the Revised Code 2212
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2213

(V) Whoever violates section 3517.21 or 3517.22 of the 2214
Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or 2215
fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. 2216

(W) A campaign committee that is required to file a 2217
declaration of no limits under division (D)(2) of section 3517.103 2218
of the Revised Code that, before filing that declaration, accepts 2219
a contribution or contributions that exceed the limitations 2220
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, shall return 2221
that contribution or those contributions to the contributor. 2222

(X) Any campaign committee that fails to file the declaration 2223
of filing-day finances required by division (F) of section 2224
3517.109 or the declaration of primary-day finances or declaration 2225
of year-end finances required by division (E) of section 3517.1010 2226
of the Revised Code shall be fined twenty-five dollars for each 2227
day of violation. 2228

(Y)(1) Any campaign committee that fails to dispose of excess 2229
funds or excess aggregate contributions under division (B) of 2230
section 3517.109 of the Revised Code in the manner required by 2231
division (C) of that section or under division (B) of section 2232
3517.1010 of the Revised Code in the manner required by division 2233
(C) of that section shall give to the treasurer of state for 2234
deposit into the Ohio elections commission fund created under 2235
division (I) of section 3517.152 of the Revised Code all funds not 2236
disposed of pursuant to those divisions. 2237

(2) Any treasurer of a transition fund that fails to dispose 2238
of assets remaining in the transition fund as required under 2239
division (H)(1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall 2240
give to the treasurer of state for deposit into the Ohio elections 2241

commission fund all assets not disposed of pursuant to that 2242
division. 2243

(Z) Any individual, campaign committee, political action 2244
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 2245
fund, political party, treasurer of a transition fund, or other 2246
entity that violates any provision of sections 3517.09 to 3517.12 2247
of the Revised Code for which no penalty is provided for under any 2248
other division of this section shall be fined not more than one 2249
thousand dollars. 2250

(AA)(1) Whoever knowingly violates division (W)(1) of section 2251
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2252
three times the amount contributed, expended, or promised in 2253
violation of that division or ten thousand dollars, whichever 2254
amount is greater. 2255

(2) Whoever knowingly violates division (W)(2) of section 2256
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2257
three times the amount solicited or accepted in violation of that 2258
division or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is greater. 2259

(BB) Whoever knowingly violates division (C) or (D) of 2260
section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2261
ten thousand dollars plus not more than one thousand dollars for 2262
each day of violation. 2263

(CC)(1) Subject to division (CC)(2) of this section, whoever 2264
violates division (H) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code 2265
shall be fined an amount up to three times the amount disbursed 2266
for the direct costs of airing the communication made in violation 2267
of that division. 2268

(2) Whoever has been ordered by the Ohio elections commission 2269
or by a court of competent jurisdiction to cease making 2270
communications in violation of division (H) of section 3517.1011 2271
of the Revised Code who again violates that division shall be 2272

2273 fined an amount equal to three times the amount disbursed for the
2274 direct costs of airing the communication made in violation of that
2275 division.

2276 (DD)(1) Any corporation or labor organization that violates
2277 division (X)(3)(a) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be
2278 fined an amount equal to three times the amount given in excess of
2279 the amount permitted by that division.

2280 (2) Any state or county political party that violates
2281 division (X)(3)(b) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be
2282 fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess
2283 of the amount permitted by that division.

2284 **Sec. 3599.03.** (A)(1) Except to carry on activities specified
2285 in sections 3517.082 and 3517.1011, division (A)(2) of section
2286 3517.1012, division (B) of section 3517.1013, division (C)(1) of
2287 section 3517.1014, and section 3599.031 of the Revised Code and
2288 except as provided in divisions (D), (E), and (F) of this section,
2289 no corporation, no nonprofit corporation, and no labor
2290 organization, directly or indirectly, shall pay or use, or offer,
2291 advise, consent, or agree to pay or use, the corporation's money
2292 or property, or the labor organization's money, including dues,
2293 initiation fees, or other assessments paid by members, or
2294 property, for or in aid of or opposition to a political party, a
2295 candidate for election or nomination to public office, a political
2296 action committee including a political action committee of the
2297 corporation or labor organization, a legislative campaign fund, or
2298 any organization that supports or opposes any such candidate, or
2299 for any partisan political purpose, shall violate any law
2300 requiring the filing of an affidavit or statement respecting such
2301 use of those funds, or shall pay or use the corporation's or labor
2302 organization's money for the expenses of a social fund-raising
2303 event for its political action committee if an employee's or labor

organization member's right to attend such an event is predicated 2304
on the employee's or member's contribution to the corporation's or 2305
labor organization's political action committee. 2306

(2) Whoever violates division (A)(1) of this section shall be 2307
fined not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand 2308
dollars. 2309

(B)(1) No officer, stockholder, attorney, or agent of a 2310
corporation or nonprofit corporation, no member, including an 2311
officer, attorney, or agent, of a labor organization, and no 2312
candidate, political party official, or other individual shall 2313
knowingly aid, advise, solicit, or receive money or other property 2314
in violation of division (A)(1) of this section. 2315

(2) Whoever violates division (B)(1) of this section shall be 2316
fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more 2317
than one year, or both. 2318

(C) A corporation, a nonprofit corporation, or a labor 2319
organization may use its funds or property for or in aid of or 2320
opposition to a proposed or certified ballot issue. Such use of 2321
funds or property shall be reported on a form prescribed by the 2322
secretary of state. Reports of contributions in connection with 2323
statewide ballot issues shall be filed with the secretary of 2324
state. Reports of contributions in connection with local issues 2325
shall be filed with the board of elections of the most populous 2326
county of the district in which the issue is submitted or to be 2327
submitted to the electors. Reports made pursuant to this division 2328
shall be filed by the times specified in divisions (A)(1) and (2) 2329
of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 2330

(D)(1) Any gift made pursuant to section 3517.101 of the 2331
Revised Code does not constitute a violation of this section or of 2332
any other section of the Revised Code. 2333

(2) Any gift made pursuant to division (A)(2) of section 2334

3517.1012 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2335
this section. 2336

(3) Any gift made pursuant to division (B) of section 2337
3517.1013 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2338
this section. 2339

(4) Any donation made pursuant to division (C)(1) of section 2340
3517.1014 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2341
this section. 2342

(E) Any compensation or fees paid by a financial institution 2343
to a state political party for services rendered pursuant to 2344
division (B) of section 3517.19 of the Revised Code do not 2345
constitute a violation of this section or of any other section of 2346
the Revised Code. 2347

(F)(1) The use by a nonprofit corporation of its money or 2348
property for communicating information for a purpose specified in 2349
division (A) of this section is not a violation of that division 2350
if the stockholders, members, donors, trustees, or officers of the 2351
nonprofit corporation are the predominant recipients of the 2352
communication. 2353

(2) The placement of a campaign sign on the property of a 2354
corporation, nonprofit corporation, or labor organization is not a 2355
use of property in violation of division (A) of this section by 2356
that corporation, nonprofit corporation, or labor organization. 2357

(3) The use by a corporation or labor organization of its 2358
money or property for communicating information for a purpose 2359
specified in division (A) of this section is not a violation of 2360
that division if it is not a communication made by mass broadcast 2361
such as radio or television or made by advertising in a newspaper 2362
of general circulation but is a communication sent exclusively to 2363
members, employees, officers, or trustees of that labor 2364
organization or shareholders, employees, officers, or directors of 2365

that corporation or to members of the immediate families of any 2366
such individuals or if the communication intended to be so sent 2367
exclusively is unintentionally sent as well to a de minimis number 2368
of other individuals. 2369

(G) In addition to the laws listed in division (A) of section 2370
4117.10 of the Revised Code that prevail over conflicting 2371
agreements between employee organizations and public employers, 2372
this section prevails over any conflicting provisions of 2373
agreements between labor organizations and public employers that 2374
are entered into on or after ~~the effective date of this section~~ 2375
March 31, 2005, pursuant to Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code. 2376

(H) As used in this section, "labor organization" has the 2377
same meaning as in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 2378

Section 2. That existing sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.106, 2379
3517.11, 3517.153, 3517.154, 3517.992, and 3599.03 of the Revised 2380
Code are hereby repealed. 2381