

As Introduced

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
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S. B. No. 10

Senator Widener

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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 sections 1701.96, 1702.85, and 3
3517.1014 of the Revised Code to permit 4
individuals elected or appointed to state office 5
to establish transition funds to receive donations 6
and to make expenditures for transition activities 7
and inaugural celebrations. 8

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

Section 1. That sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.11, 9
3517.153, 3517.154, 3517.992, and 3599.03 be amended and sections 10
1701.96, 1702.85, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code be enacted to 11
read as follows: 12

Sec. 1701.96. (A) No corporation shall make a disbursement to 13
pay any costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural 14
celebrations unless the disbursement is a donation to a transition 15
account in accordance with section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 16

(B) A corporation that violates division (A) of this section 17
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount disbursed 18
in violation of that division. 19

(C) As used in this section, "costs incurred for transition 20

activities and inaugural celebrations" and "donation" have the 21
same meanings as in section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 22

Sec. 1702.85. (A) No nonprofit corporation shall make a 23
disbursement to pay any costs incurred for transition activities 24
and inaugural celebrations unless the disbursement is a donation 25
to a transition account in accordance with section 3517.1014 of 26
the Revised Code. 27

(B) A nonprofit corporation that violates division (A) of 28
this section shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 29
amount disbursed in violation of that division. 30

(C) As used in this section, "costs incurred for transition 31
activities and inaugural celebrations" and "donation" have the 32
same meanings as in section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 33

Sec. 3517.01. (A)(1) A political party within the meaning of 34
Title XXXV of the Revised Code is any group of voters that, at the 35
most recent regular state election, polled for its candidate for 36
governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at 37
least five per cent of the entire vote cast for that office or 38
that filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to any election 39
in which it received less than five per cent of that vote, a 40
petition signed by qualified electors equal in number to at least 41
one per cent of the total vote for governor or nominees for 42
presidential electors at the most recent election, declaring their 43
intention of organizing a political party, the name of which shall 44
be stated in the declaration, and of participating in the 45
succeeding primary election, held in even-numbered years, that 46
occurs more than one hundred twenty days after the date of filing. 47
No such group of electors shall assume a name or designation that 48
is similar, in the opinion of the secretary of state, to that of 49
an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at 50

an election. If any political party fails to cast five per cent of 51
the total vote cast at an election for the office of governor or 52
president, it shall cease to be a political party. 53

(2) A campaign committee shall be legally liable for any 54
debts, contracts, or expenditures incurred or executed in its 55
name. 56

(B) Notwithstanding the definitions found in section 3501.01 57
of the Revised Code, as used in this section and sections 3517.08 58
to 3517.14, 3517.99, and 3517.992 of the Revised Code: 59

(1) "Campaign committee" means a candidate or a combination 60
of two or more persons authorized by a candidate under section 61
3517.081 of the Revised Code to receive contributions and make 62
expenditures. 63

(2) "Campaign treasurer" means an individual appointed by a 64
candidate under section 3517.081 of the Revised Code. 65

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in division (H) of 66
section 3501.01 of the Revised Code and also includes any person 67
who, at any time before or after an election, receives 68
contributions or makes expenditures or other use of contributions, 69
has given consent for another to receive contributions or make 70
expenditures or other use of contributions, or appoints a campaign 71
treasurer, for the purpose of bringing about the person's 72
nomination or election to public office. When two persons jointly 73
seek the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, "candidate" 74
means the pair of candidates jointly. "Candidate" does not include 75
candidates for election to the offices of member of a county or 76
state central committee, presidential elector, and delegate to a 77
national convention or conference of a political party. 78

(4) "Continuing association" means an association, other than 79
a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, 80
political contributing entity, or labor organization, that is 81

intended to be a permanent organization that has a primary purpose 82
other than supporting or opposing specific candidates, political 83
parties, or ballot issues, and that functions on a regular basis 84
throughout the year. "Continuing association" includes 85
organizations that are determined to be not organized for profit 86
under subsection 501 and that are described in subsection 87
501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. 88

(5) "Contribution" means a loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness 89
of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds 90
or anything of value, including a transfer of funds from an inter 91
vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's estate, and the payment 92
by any person other than the person to whom the services are 93
rendered for the personal services of another person, which 94
contribution is made, received, or used for the purpose of 95
influencing the results of an election. Any loan, gift, deposit, 96
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 97
transfer of funds or of anything of value, including a transfer of 98
funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 99
estate, and the payment by any campaign committee, political 100
action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, 101
political contributing entity, or person other than the person to 102
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 103
another person, that is made, received, or used by a state or 104
county political party, other than moneys a state or county 105
political party receives from the Ohio political party fund 106
pursuant to section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and the moneys a 107
state or county political party may receive under sections 108
3517.101, 3517.1012, and 3517.1013 of the Revised Code, shall be 109
considered to be a "contribution" for the purpose of section 110
3517.10 of the Revised Code and shall be included on a statement 111
of contributions filed under that section. 112

"Contribution" does not include any of the following: 113

(a) Services provided without compensation by individuals	114
volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a person;	115
(b) Ordinary home hospitality;	116
(c) The personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that	117
volunteer campaign worker;	118
(d) Any gift given to a state or county political party	119
pursuant to section 3517.101 of the Revised Code. As used in	120
division (B)(5)(d) of this section, "political party" means only a	121
major political party;	122
(e) Any contribution as defined in section 3517.1011 of the	123
Revised Code that is made, received, or used to pay the direct	124
costs of producing or airing an electioneering communication;	125
(f) Any gift given to a state or county political party for	126
the party's restricted fund under division (A)(2) of section	127
3517.1012 of the Revised Code;	128
(g) Any gift given to a state political party for deposit in	129
a Levin account pursuant to section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code.	130
As used in this division, "Levin account" has the same meaning as	131
in that section.	132
<u>(h) Any donation given to a transition fund under section</u>	133
<u>3517.1014 of the Revised Code.</u>	134
(6) "Expenditure" means the disbursement or use of a	135
contribution for the purpose of influencing the results of an	136
election or of making a charitable donation under division (G) of	137
section 3517.08 of the Revised Code. Any disbursement or use of a	138
contribution by a state or county political party is an	139
expenditure and shall be considered either to be made for the	140
purpose of influencing the results of an election or to be made as	141
a charitable donation under division (G) of section 3517.08 of the	142
Revised Code and shall be reported on a statement of expenditures	143

filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. During the thirty 144
days preceding a primary or general election, any disbursement to 145
pay the direct costs of producing or airing a broadcast, cable, or 146
satellite communication that refers to a clearly identified 147
candidate shall be considered to be made for the purpose of 148
influencing the results of that election and shall be reported as 149
an expenditure or as an independent expenditure under section 150
3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised Code, as applicable, except 151
that the information required to be reported regarding 152
contributors for those expenditures or independent expenditures 153
shall be the same as the information required to be reported under 154
divisions (D)(1) and (2) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 155

As used in this division, "broadcast, cable, or satellite 156
communication" and "refers to a clearly identified candidate" have 157
the same meanings as in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 158

(7) "Personal expenses" includes, but is not limited to, 159
ordinary expenses for accommodations, clothing, food, personal 160
motor vehicle or airplane, and home telephone. 161

(8) "Political action committee" means a combination of two 162
or more persons, the primary or major purpose of which is to 163
support or oppose any candidate, political party, or issue, or to 164
influence the result of any election through express advocacy, and 165
that is not a political party, a campaign committee, a political 166
contributing entity, or a legislative campaign fund. "Political 167
action committee" does not include either of the following: 168

(a) A continuing association that makes disbursements for the 169
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications 170
and that does not engage in express advocacy; 171

(b) A political club that is formed primarily for social 172
purposes and that consists of one hundred members or less, has 173
officers and periodic meetings, has less than two thousand five 174

hundred dollars in its treasury at all times, and makes an 175
aggregate total contribution of one thousand dollars or less per 176
calendar year. 177

(9) "Public office" means any state, county, municipal, 178
township, or district office, except an office of a political 179
party, that is filled by an election and the offices of United 180
States senator and representative. 181

(10) "Anything of value" has the same meaning as in section 182
1.03 of the Revised Code. 183

(11) "Beneficiary of a campaign fund" means a candidate, a 184
public official or employee for whose benefit a campaign fund 185
exists, and any other person who has ever been a candidate or 186
public official or employee and for whose benefit a campaign fund 187
exists. 188

(12) "Campaign fund" means money or other property, including 189
contributions. 190

(13) "Public official or employee" has the same meaning as in 191
section 102.01 of the Revised Code. 192

(14) "Caucus" means all of the members of the house of 193
representatives or all of the members of the senate of the general 194
assembly who are members of the same political party. 195

(15) "Legislative campaign fund" means a fund that is 196
established as an auxiliary of a state political party and 197
associated with one of the houses of the general assembly. 198

(16) "In-kind contribution" means anything of value other 199
than money that is used to influence the results of an election or 200
is transferred to or used in support of or in opposition to a 201
candidate, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 202
political party, political action committee, or political 203
contributing entity and that is made with the consent of, in 204

coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request 205
or suggestion of the benefited candidate, committee, fund, party, 206
or entity. The financing of the dissemination, distribution, or 207
republication, in whole or part, of any broadcast or of any 208
written, graphic, or other form of campaign materials prepared by 209
the candidate, the candidate's campaign committee, or their 210
authorized agents is an in-kind contribution to the candidate and 211
an expenditure by the candidate. 212

(17) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a 213
person advocating the election or defeat of an identified 214
candidate or candidates, that is not made with the consent of, in 215
coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request 216
or suggestion of any candidate or candidates or of the campaign 217
committee or agent of the candidate or candidates. As used in 218
division (B)(17) of this section: 219

(a) "Person" means an individual, partnership, unincorporated 220
business organization or association, political action committee, 221
political contributing entity, separate segregated fund, 222
association, or other organization or group of persons, but not a 223
labor organization or a corporation unless the labor organization 224
or corporation is a political contributing entity. 225

(b) "Advocating" means any communication containing a message 226
advocating election or defeat. 227

(c) "Identified candidate" means that the name of the 228
candidate appears, a photograph or drawing of the candidate 229
appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent by 230
unambiguous reference. 231

(d) "Made in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, 232
or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or the campaign 233
committee or agent of the candidate" means made pursuant to any 234
arrangement, coordination, or direction by the candidate, the 235

candidate's campaign committee, or the candidate's agent prior to 236
the publication, distribution, display, or broadcast of the 237
communication. An expenditure is presumed to be so made when it is 238
any of the following: 239

(i) Based on information about the candidate's plans, 240
projects, or needs provided to the person making the expenditure 241
by the candidate, or by the candidate's campaign committee or 242
agent, with a view toward having an expenditure made; 243

(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, 244
authorized to raise or expend funds, who is, or has been, an 245
officer of the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has 246
been, receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the 247
candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or agent; 248

(iii) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of section 249
3517.105 of the Revised Code, made by a political party in support 250
of a candidate, unless the expenditure is made by a political 251
party to conduct voter registration or voter education efforts. 252

(e) "Agent" means any person who has actual oral or written 253
authority, either express or implied, to make or to authorize the 254
making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate, or means any 255
person who has been placed in a position with the candidate's 256
campaign committee or organization such that it would reasonably 257
appear that in the ordinary course of campaign-related activities 258
the person may authorize expenditures. 259

(18) "Labor organization" means a labor union; an employee 260
organization; a federation of labor unions, groups, locals, or 261
other employee organizations; an auxiliary of a labor union, 262
employee organization, or federation of labor unions, groups, 263
locals, or other employee organizations; or any other bona fide 264
organization in which employees participate and that exists for 265
the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers 266

concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours, and other 267
terms and conditions of employment. 268

(19) "Separate segregated fund" means a separate segregated 269
fund established pursuant to the Federal Election Campaign Act. 270

(20) "Federal Election Campaign Act" means the "Federal 271
Election Campaign Act of 1971," 86 Stat. 11, 2 U.S.C.A. 431, et 272
seq., as amended. 273

(21) "Restricted fund" means the fund a state or county 274
political party must establish under division (A)(1) of section 275
3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 276

(22) "Electioneering communication" has the same meaning as 277
in section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 278

(23) "Express advocacy" means a communication that contains 279
express words advocating the nomination, election, or defeat of a 280
candidate or that contains express words advocating the adoption 281
or defeat of a question or issue, as determined by a final 282
judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. 283

(24) "Political committee" has the same meaning as in section 284
3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 285

(25) "Political contributing entity" means any entity, 286
including a corporation or labor organization, that may lawfully 287
make contributions and expenditures and that is not an individual 288
or a political action committee, continuing association, campaign 289
committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, designated 290
state campaign committee, or state candidate fund. For purposes of 291
this division, "lawfully" means not prohibited by any section of 292
the Revised Code, or authorized by a final judgment of a court of 293
competent jurisdiction. 294

Sec. 3517.10. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 295
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 296

legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 297
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 298
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 299
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 300
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on a 301
form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 302
transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 303
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made under 304
penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail the 305
contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of the 306
following dates: 307

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 308
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 309
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 310
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 311
before the election; 312

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect the 313
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 314
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 315
statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh day 316
before the filing of the statement; 317

(3) The last business day of January of every year to reflect 318
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 319
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 320
statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of 321
December of the previous year; 322

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 323
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 324
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 325
statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of 326
June of that year. 327

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 328
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 329
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 330
committee's candidate. 331

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this section 332
shall not be required of any campaign committee, political action 333
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 334
political contributing entity that has received contributions of 335
less than one thousand dollars and has made expenditures of less 336
than one thousand dollars at the close of business on the 337
twentieth day before the election. Those contributions and 338
expenditures shall be reported in the statement required under 339
division (A)(2) of this section. 340

If an election to select candidates to appear on the general 341
election ballot is held within sixty days before a general 342
election, the campaign committee of a successful candidate in the 343
earlier election may file the statement required by division 344
(A)(1) of this section for the general election instead of the 345
statement required by division (A)(2) of this section for the 346
earlier election if the pregeneral election statement reflects the 347
status of contributions and expenditures for the period twenty 348
days before the earlier election to twenty days before the general 349
election. 350

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before 351
an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to 352
file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section. 353

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be 354
required for any year in which a campaign committee, political 355
action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 356
political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral 357
election statement under division (A)(2) of this section. However, 358
a statement under division (A)(3) of this section may be filed, at 359

the option of the campaign committee, political action committee, 360
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 361
contributing entity. 362

No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of chief 363
justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign committee 364
of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in this state, 365
shall be required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of 366
this section. 367

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the 368
next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees 369
required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of this section 370
are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and the 371
campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The campaign 372
committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial office is 373
required to file a statement under division (A)(4) of this section 374
if that campaign committee receives, during that period, 375
contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars. 376

No statement under division (A)(4) of this section shall be 377
required of a campaign committee, a political action committee, a 378
legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a political 379
contributing entity for any year in which the campaign committee, 380
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 381
party, or political contributing entity is required to file a 382
postprimary election statement under division (A)(2) of this 383
section. However, a statement under division (A)(4) of this 384
section may be filed at the option of the campaign committee, 385
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 386
party, or political contributing entity. 387

No statement under division (A)(3) or (4) of this section 388
shall be required if the campaign committee, political action 389
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 390
political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 391

received and no expenditures that it has made since the last date 392
reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, the 393
campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 394
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 395
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed under 396
this section and made under penalty of election falsification, on 397
the date required in division (A)(3) or (4) of this section, as 398
applicable. 399

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file a 400
monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 401
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 402
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 403
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 404
statement not later than three business days after the last day of 405
the month covered by the statement. During the period beginning on 406
the nineteenth day before the general election in which a 407
statewide candidate seeks election to office and extending through 408
the day of that general election, each time the campaign committee 409
of the joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 410
governor or of a candidate for the office of secretary of state, 411
auditor of state, treasurer of state, or attorney general receives 412
a contribution from a contributor that causes the aggregate amount 413
of contributions received from that contributor during that period 414
to equal or exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign 415
committee of a candidate for the office of chief justice or 416
justice of the supreme court receives a contribution from a 417
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 418
received from that contributor during that period to exceed ten 419
thousand dollars, the campaign committee shall file a 420
two-business-day statement reflecting that contribution. During 421
the period beginning on the nineteenth day before a primary 422
election in which a candidate for statewide office seeks 423
nomination to office and extending through the day of that primary 424

election, each time either the campaign committee of a statewide 425
candidate in that primary election that files a notice under 426
division (C)(1) of section 3517.103 of the Revised Code or the 427
campaign committee of a statewide candidate in that primary 428
election to which, in accordance with division (D) of section 429
3517.103 of the Revised Code, the contribution limitations 430
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code no longer apply 431
receives a contribution from a contributor that causes the 432
aggregate amount of contributions received from that contributor 433
during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, the campaign 434
committee shall file a two-business-day statement reflecting that 435
contribution. Contributions reported on a two-business-day 436
statement required to be filed by a campaign committee of a 437
statewide candidate in a primary election shall also be included 438
in the postprimary election statement required to be filed by that 439
campaign committee under division (A)(2) of this section. A 440
two-business-day statement required by this paragraph shall be 441
filed not later than two business days after receipt of the 442
contribution. The statements required by this paragraph shall be 443
filed in addition to any other statements required by this 444
section. 445

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, 446
and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary 447
of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of 448
this section and division (H)(1) of section 3517.106 of the 449
Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 450
electronic means of transmission, a campaign committee of a 451
statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day statement under 452
the preceding paragraph by electronic means of transmission if the 453
campaign committee is required to file a pre-election, 454
postelection, or monthly statement of contributions and 455
expenditures by electronic means of transmission under this 456
section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 457

If a campaign committee or political action committee has no 458
balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 459
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 460
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 461
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 462
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a final 463
statement of contributions and a final statement of expenditures, 464
if contributions have been received or expenditures made since the 465
period reflected in its last previously filed statement. 466

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(7) of this 467
section, each statement required by division (A) of this section 468
shall contain the following information: 469

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 470
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 471
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 472
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 473
and expenditure statement; 474

(2)(a) In the case of a campaign committee, the candidate's 475
full name and address; 476

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 477
registration number assigned to the committee under division 478
(D)(1) of this section. 479

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be a 480
general, primary, or special election; 481

(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall 482
include the following information: 483

(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 484

(b)(i) The full name and address of each person, political 485
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 486
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom 487

contributions are received and the registration number assigned to 488
the political action committee under division (D)(1) of this 489
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not apply 490
to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a 491
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to a 492
committee recognized by a state or local committee as its 493
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this 494
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be 495
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address 496
the contributor provided under division (E)(1) of this section. 497

(ii) If a political action committee, political contributing 498
entity, legislative campaign fund, or political party that is 499
required to file campaign finance statements by electronic means 500
of transmission under section 3517.106 of the Revised Code or a 501
campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate for the 502
office of member of the general assembly receives a contribution 503
from an individual that exceeds one hundred dollars, the name of 504
the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual 505
is self-employed, the individual's occupation and the name of the 506
individual's business, if any; 507

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 508
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 509
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 510
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 511
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 512
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 513
(A)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 514
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization of 515
which the employees are members, if any. 516

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other than 517
money; 518

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 519

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall include a description of and the value of each in-kind contribution received at that activity from any person who made one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing association that is recognized by a state or local committee of a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or address of any members who paid those dues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The amount of each expenditure.

(C)(1) The statement of contributions and expenditures shall be signed by the person completing the form. If a statement of contributions and expenditures is filed by electronic means of

transmission pursuant to this section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the electronic signature of the person who executes the statement and transmits the statement by electronic means of transmission, as provided in division (H) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall be attached to or associated with the statement and shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes under the campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had been handwritten in ink on a printed form.

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

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

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

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state, and who, at any time prior to or after an election, receives contributions or makes expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive

contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing 615
about the person's nomination or election to public office, shall 616
file the statement or statements prescribed by this section and a 617
termination statement, if applicable. Division (C)(5) of this 618
section does not apply to any person with respect to an election 619
to the offices of member of a county or state central committee, 620
presidential elector, or delegate to a national convention or 621
conference of a political party. 622

(6)(a) The statements required to be filed under this section 623
shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign committee, 624
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 625
party, or political contributing entity and the disposition 626
intended to be made of that balance. 627

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for all 628
statements required to be filed under this section and shall 629
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 630
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 631
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall prescribe 632
the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file structure for 633
statements required or permitted to be filed by electronic means 634
of transmission under division (A) of this section, divisions (E), 635
(F), and (G) of section 3517.106, division (D) of section 636
3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, ~~and~~ division (C) of 637
section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (H) of section 3517.1014 638
of the Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this section, 639
divisions (E), (F), and (G) of section 3517.106, division (D) of 640
section 3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, ~~and~~ division 641
(C) of section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (H) of section 642
3517.1014 of the Revised Code, the statements required to be 643
stored on computer by the secretary of state under division (B) of 644
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in whatever 645
format the secretary of state considers necessary to enable the 646

secretary of state to store the information contained in the 647
statements on computer. Any such format shall be of a type and 648
nature that is readily available to whoever is required to file 649
the statements in that format. 650

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for training 651
regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 652
means of transmission and regarding associated technologies for 653
candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, 654
legislative campaign funds, political parties, or political 655
contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, or other 656
entities, ~~or~~ for persons making disbursements to pay the direct 657
costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, or for 658
treasurers of transition funds, required or permitted to file 659
statements by electronic means of transmission under this section 660
or section 3517.105, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, 661
or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the 662
secretary of state, training in these areas is necessary, the 663
secretary of state shall arrange for the provision of voluntary 664
training programs for candidates, campaign committees, political 665
action committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, 666
or political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 667
and other entities, ~~or~~ for persons making disbursements to pay the 668
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, 669
or for treasurers of transition funds, as appropriate. 670

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 671
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 672
the information required by divisions (B)(1) to (4), (C)(2), and, 673
if appropriate, (C)(3) of this section. Each statement shall be 674
signed as required by division (C)(1) of this section. 675

(D)(1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 676
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action committee, 677
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 678

contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and shall file, on a 679
form prescribed by the secretary of state, a designation of that 680
appointment, including the full name and address of the treasurer 681
and of the campaign committee, political action committee, 682
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 683
contributing entity. That designation shall be filed with the 684
official with whom the campaign committee, political action 685
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 686
political contributing entity is required to file statements under 687
section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name of a campaign 688
committee shall include at least the last name of the campaign 689
committee's candidate. If two or more candidates are the 690
beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under division (B) of 691
section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name of the campaign 692
committee shall include at least the last name of each candidate 693
who is a beneficiary of that campaign committee. The secretary of 694
state shall assign a registration number to each political action 695
committee that files a designation of the appointment of a 696
treasurer under this division if the political action committee is 697
required by division (A)(1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code 698
to file the statements prescribed by this section with the 699
secretary of state. 700

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D)(1) of this 701
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 702
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 703

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 704
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all monetary 705
contributions received by the committee into an account separate 706
from a personal or business account of the candidate or campaign 707
committee. 708

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all monetary 709
contributions received by the committee into an account separate 710

from all other funds. 711

(c) A state or county political party may establish a state 712
candidate fund that is separate from an account that contains the 713
public moneys received from the Ohio political party fund under 714
section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and from all other funds. A 715
state or county political party may deposit into its state 716
candidate fund any amounts of monetary contributions that are made 717
to or accepted by the political party subject to the applicable 718
limitations, if any, prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised 719
Code. A state or county political party shall deposit all other 720
monetary contributions received by the party into one or more 721
accounts that are separate from its state candidate fund and from 722
its account that contains the public moneys received from the Ohio 723
political party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 724

(d) Each state political party shall have only one 725
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general assembly. 726
Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds or accounts 727
of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is authorized to 728
receive contributions and make expenditures for the primary 729
purpose of furthering the election of candidates who are members 730
of that political party to the house of the general assembly with 731
which that legislative campaign fund is associated. Each 732
legislative campaign fund shall be administered and controlled in 733
a manner designated by the caucus. As used in this division, 734
"caucus" has the same meaning as in section 3517.01 of the Revised 735
Code and includes, as an ex officio member, the chairperson of the 736
state political party with which the caucus is associated or that 737
chairperson's designee. 738

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars shall 739
be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of the 740
expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of 741
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of 742

the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division 743
(D)(4) of this section. 744

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as the 745
case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed under 746
this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for a period 747
of at least six years. All statements filed under this section 748
shall be open to public inspection in the office where they are 749
filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of at least 750
six years after the year in which they are filed. 751

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 752
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 753
following: 754

(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and 755
time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are 756
transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary 757
of state pursuant to this section or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 758
3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code; 759

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and 760
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 761
disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 762
disbursement information in the statements described in division 763
(D)(6)(a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve 764
the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 765
deposit and disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation 766
and disbursement information in those statements for at least ten 767
years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means 768
of transmission. 769

(7) The secretary of state, pursuant to division (I) of 770
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available online 771
to the public through the internet the contribution and 772
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 773

disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 774
disbursement information in all statements, all addenda, 775
amendments, or other corrections to statements, and all amended 776
statements filed with the secretary of state by electronic or 777
other means of transmission under this section, division (B)(2)(b) 778
or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 779
3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 780
The secretary of state may remove the information from the 781
internet after a reasonable period of time. 782

(E)(1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 783
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 784
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 785
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or in 786
connection with any ballot issue or question at any election held 787
or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 788
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 789
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 790
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 791
division (D)(1) of this section to the recipient of the 792
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 793

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds one 794
hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 795
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political party 796
or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate 797
for the office of member of the general assembly shall provide the 798
name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the 799
individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation and the 800
name of the individual's business, if any, to the recipient of the 801
contribution at the time the contribution is made. Sections 802
3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not apply to division 803
(E)(2) of this section. 804

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised its 805

best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 806
required under divisions (B)(4)(b)(ii) and (iii) of this section, 807
that committee is considered to have met the requirements of those 808
divisions. A campaign committee shall not be considered to have 809
exercised its best efforts unless, in connection with written 810
solicitations, it regularly includes a written request for the 811
information required under division (B)(4)(b)(ii) of this section 812
from the contributor or the information required under division 813
(B)(4)(b)(iii) of this section from whoever transmits the 814
contribution. 815

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to make 816
a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full name and 817
address of the committee and the registration number assigned to 818
the committee under division (D)(1) of this section. 819

(F) As used in this section: 820

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of 821
this section, "address" means all of the following if they exist: 822
apartment number, street, road, or highway name and number, rural 823
delivery route number, city or village, state, and zip code as 824
used in a person's post-office address, but not post-office box. 825

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F)(1) of this 826
section, if an address is required in this section, a post-office 827
box and office, room, or suite number may be included in addition 828
to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or highway 829
name and number. 830

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 831
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, 832
political party, or political contributing entity may use the 833
business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 834
treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 835
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 836

party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition to 837
that address. 838

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's reporting 839
of contributions on a statement of contributions received under 840
division (B)(4) of this section, "address" has one of the 841
following meanings at the option of the campaign committee: 842

(i) The same meaning as in division (F)(1)(a) of this 843
section; 844

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the contributor's 845
post-office box number and city or village, state, and zip code as 846
used in the contributor's post-office address. 847

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this section 848
of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following if they 849
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and number, 850
rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and zip code 851
as used in a person's post-office address, or post-office box. If 852
an address concerning any expenditure is required in this section, 853
a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 854
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 855
may use the business or residence address of its treasurer or 856
deputy treasurer or its post-office box number. 857

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for the 858
offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate for the 859
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 860
state, attorney general, member of the state board of education, 861
chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of the supreme 862
court. 863

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for the 864
office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the court of 865
common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas, sheriff, county 866
recorder, county engineer, county commissioner, prosecuting 867

attorney, or coroner. 868

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever and 869
in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be reported 870
under this section and shall be reported pursuant to division 871
(B)(2)(a) or (C)(2)(a) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code. 872

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of 873
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and 874
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign 875
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or 876
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five hundred 877
dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect, under 878
penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the statement 879
required by division (A)(2) of this section. The statement shall 880
indicate the total amount of contributions received and the total 881
amount of expenditures made during those combined reporting 882
periods. 883

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 884
election, if either the total contributions received by or the 885
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee 886
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral 887
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars, 888
the campaign committee may file the statement under division 889
(H)(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first 890
statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 891
general election shall reflect all contributions received and all 892
expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary election 893
periods. 894

(3) Divisions (H)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply if 895
a campaign committee receives contributions or makes expenditures 896
prior to the first day of January of the year of the election at 897
which the candidate seeks nomination or election to office or if 898
the campaign committee does not file a termination statement with 899

its postprimary election statement in the case of an unsuccessful 900
primary election candidate or with its postgeneral election 901
statement in the case of other candidates. 902

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 903
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 904
business from any funds of the partnership or other unincorporated 905
business, all of the following apply: 906

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 907
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 908
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 909
member making the contribution. 910

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 911
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 912
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 913
business, provided that the information includes one of the 914
following: 915

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the date 916
of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 917
total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of the 918
partners, owners, or members; or 919

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the date 920
of the contribution or contributions who is participating in the 921
contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 922
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 923
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 924
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 925
the contribution. 926

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, the 927
contribution shall be considered to have been made by the partner, 928
owner, or member reported under division (I)(1) of this section. 929

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 930

owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 931
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other unincorporated 932
business unless the recipient reports the contribution under 933
division (I)(1) of this section together with the information 934
provided under division (I)(2) of this section. 935

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 936
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 937
partnership or other unincorporated business. 938

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership or 939
other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited to, a 940
cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, a 941
limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a limited 942
liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 943

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at any 944
given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 945
candidate or holds office. 946

(K)(1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment of 947
a treasurer under division (D)(1) of this section, the campaign 948
committee of any candidate for an elected municipal office that 949
pays an annual amount of compensation of five thousand dollars or 950
less, the campaign committee of any candidate for member of a 951
board of education except member of the state board of education, 952
or the campaign committee of any candidate for township trustee or 953
township fiscal officer may sign, under penalty of election 954
falsification, a certificate attesting that the committee will not 955
accept contributions during an election period that exceed in the 956
aggregate two thousand dollars from all contributors and one 957
hundred dollars from any one individual, and that the campaign 958
committee will not make expenditures during an election period 959
that exceed in the aggregate two thousand dollars. 960

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 961

secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 962
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and petition, 963
a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to be a write-in 964
candidate. 965

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K)(3) of this 966
section, a campaign committee that files a certificate under 967
division (K)(1) of this section is not required to file the 968
statements required by division (A) of this section. 969

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K)(1) of 970
this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the limitations 971
described in that division during an election period, the 972
certificate is void and thereafter the campaign committee shall 973
file the statements required by division (A) of this section. If 974
the campaign committee has not previously filed a statement, then 975
on the first statement the campaign committee is required to file 976
under division (A) of this section after the committee's 977
certificate is void, the committee shall report all contributions 978
received and expenditures made from the time the candidate filed 979
the candidate's declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 980
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 981

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 982
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 983
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 984
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 985
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 986
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 987
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 988
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 989

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 990
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other assessments 991
of its members or from its officers, shareholders, and employees 992
may report the aggregate amount of contributions received from 993

those contributors and the number of individuals making those 994
contributions, for each filing period under divisions (A)(1), (2), 995
(3), and (4) of this section, rather than reporting information as 996
required under division (B)(4) of this section, including, when 997
applicable, the name of the current employer, if any, of a 998
contributor whose contribution exceeds one hundred dollars or, if 999
such a contributor is self-employed, the contributor's occupation 1000
and the name of the contributor's business, if any. Division 1001
(B)(4) of this section applies to a political contributing entity 1002
with regard to contributions it receives from all other 1003
contributors. 1004

Sec. 3517.106. (A) As used in this section: 1005

(1) "Statewide office" means any of the offices of governor, 1006
lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, 1007
treasurer of state, attorney general, chief justice of the supreme 1008
court, and justice of the supreme court. 1009

(2) "Addendum to a statement" includes an amendment or other 1010
correction to that statement. 1011

(B)(1) The secretary of state shall store on computer the 1012
information contained in statements of contributions and 1013
expenditures and monthly statements required to be filed under 1014
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code and in statements of 1015
independent expenditures required to be filed under section 1016
3517.105 of the Revised Code by any of the following: 1017

(a) The campaign committees of candidates for statewide 1018
office; 1019

(b) The political action committees and political 1020
contributing entities described in division (A)(1) of section 1021
3517.11 of the Revised Code; 1022

(c) Legislative campaign funds; 1023

(d) State political parties;	1024
(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;	1025 1026 1027 1028
(f) The campaign committees of candidates for the office of member of the general assembly;	1029 1030
(g) County political parties, with respect to their state candidate funds.	1031 1032
(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.	1033 1034 1035 1036
(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 under section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code.	1037 1038 1039 1040
(4) The secretary of state shall store on computer the gift and disbursement information contained in statements required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state under section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code.	1041 1042 1043 1044
<u>(5) The secretary of state shall store on computer the information contained in donation and disbursement statements required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state under section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code.</u>	1045 1046 1047 1048
(C)(1) The secretary of state shall make available to the campaign committees, political action committees, political contributing entities, legislative campaign funds, political parties, individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor organizations, <u>treasurers of transition funds</u> , and other entities	1049 1050 1051 1052 1053

described in division (B) of this section, and to members of the news media and other interested persons, for a reasonable fee, computer programs that are compatible with the secretary of state's method of storing the information contained in the statements.

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

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

(E)(1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, the campaign committee of each candidate for statewide office may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount of the contributions received or the total amount of the expenditures made by the campaign committee for the applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission.

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide office is received by the secretary of

state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary 1086
of state shall make available online to the public through the 1087
internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the 1088
contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The 1089
secretary of state shall not make available online to the public 1090
through the internet any contribution or expenditure information 1091
contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary of 1092
state is able to make available online to the public through the 1093
internet the contribution and expenditure information for all 1094
candidates for a particular office, or until the applicable filing 1095
deadline for that statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As 1096
soon as the secretary of state has available all of the 1097
contribution and expenditure information for all candidates for a 1098
particular office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline 1099
for a statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of 1100
state shall simultaneously make available online to the public 1101
through the internet the information for all candidates for that 1102
office. 1103

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1104
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1105
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1106
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign 1107
committee shall file by electronic means of transmission any 1108
addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary 1109
to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the 1110
secretary of state under that division, an amended statement. 1111

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1112
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide 1113
office an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by 1114
electronic or other means of transmission under this division or 1115
division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the 1116
secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure 1117

information in the addendum or amended statement available online 1118
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of 1119
this section. 1120

(2) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1121
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1122
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1123
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1124
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1125
electronic means of transmission, a political action committee and 1126
a political contributing entity described in division (B)(1)(b) of 1127
this section, a legislative campaign fund, and a state political 1128
party may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the 1129
Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total 1130
amount of the contributions received or the total amount of the 1131
expenditures made by the political action committee, political 1132
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political 1133
party for the applicable reporting period as specified in division 1134
(A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 1135
dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 1136
transmission. 1137

Within five business days after a statement filed by a 1138
political action committee or a political contributing entity 1139
described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section, a legislative 1140
campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the 1141
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 1142
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 1143
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 1144
the contribution and expenditure information in that statement. 1145

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1146
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1147
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1148
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political 1149

action committee, political contributing entity, legislative 1150
campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic 1151
means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides 1152
the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, 1153
if required by the secretary of state under that division, an 1154
amended statement. 1155

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1156
receives from a political action committee or a political 1157
contributing entity described in division (B)(1)(b) of this 1158
section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party 1159
an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic 1160
or other means of transmission under this division or division 1161
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 1162
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in 1163
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public 1164
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1165

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1166
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1167
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1168
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1169
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1170
electronic means of transmission, a county political party shall 1171
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1172
Code with respect to its state candidate fund by electronic means 1173
of transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 1174

Within five business days after a statement filed by a county 1175
political party with respect to its state candidate fund is 1176
received by the secretary of state by electronic means of 1177
transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online 1178
to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of 1179
this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that 1180
statement. 1181

If a statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after 1182
the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy 1183
pursuant to division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1184
Code, a county political party shall file by electronic means of 1185
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the 1186
information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if 1187
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1188
statement. 1189

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1190
receives from a county political party an addendum to the 1191
statement or an amended statement by electronic means of 1192
transmission under this division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 1193
3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the 1194
contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or 1195
amended statement available online to the public through the 1196
internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1197

(F)(1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject to 1198
the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified 1199
the successful operation of any system the secretary of state 1200
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 1201
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1202
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 1203
means of transmission, a campaign committee of a candidate for the 1204
office of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee 1205
of a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals may 1206
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1207
Code in accordance with division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the 1208
Revised Code or by electronic means of transmission to the office 1209
of the secretary of state or, if the total amount of the 1210
contributions received by the campaign committee for the 1211
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 1212
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, 1213

shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission to 1214
the office of the secretary of state. 1215

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five 1216
business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a 1217
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or a 1218
campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a 1219
court of appeals is received by the secretary of state by 1220
electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state 1221
shall make available online to the public through the internet, as 1222
provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and 1223
expenditure information in that statement. The secretary of state 1224
shall not make available online to the public through the internet 1225
any contribution or expenditure information contained in a 1226
statement for any candidate until the secretary of state is able 1227
to make available online to the public through the internet the 1228
contribution and expenditure information for all candidates for a 1229
particular office, or until the applicable filing deadline for 1230
that statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As soon as the 1231
secretary of state has available all of the contribution and 1232
expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1233
office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline for a 1234
statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of state 1235
shall simultaneously make available online to the public through 1236
the internet the information for all candidates for that office. 1237

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1238
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1239
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1240
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign 1241
committee shall file by electronic means of transmission to the 1242
office of the secretary of state any addendum to the statement 1243
that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the 1244
statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that 1245

division, an amended statement. 1246

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1247
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office 1248
of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a 1249
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals an 1250
addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or 1251
other means of transmission under this division or division 1252
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 1253
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in 1254
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public 1255
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 1256

(2) If a statement, addendum, or amended statement is not 1257
filed by electronic means of transmission to the office of the 1258
secretary of state but is filed by printed version only under 1259
division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code with the 1260
appropriate board of elections, the campaign committee of a 1261
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or a 1262
campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a 1263
court of appeals shall file two copies of the printed version of 1264
the statement, addendum, or amended statement with the board of 1265
elections. The board of elections shall send one of those copies 1266
by certified mail to the secretary of state before the close of 1267
business on the day the board of elections receives the statement, 1268
addendum, or amended statement. 1269

(G) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1270
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1271
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 1272
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 1273
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 1274
electronic means of transmission, any individual, partnership, or 1275
other entity that makes independent expenditures in support of or 1276
opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or 1277

question as provided in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 1278
3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in 1279
that division by electronic means of transmission or, if the total 1280
amount of independent expenditures made during the reporting 1281
period under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall 1282
file the statement specified in that division by electronic means 1283
of transmission. 1284

Within five business days after a statement filed by an 1285
individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the 1286
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 1287
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 1288
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 1289
the expenditure information in that statement. 1290

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 1291
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 1292
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1293
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual, 1294
partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of 1295
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the 1296
information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if 1297
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1298
statement. 1299

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1300
receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity 1301
described in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 1302
of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended 1303
statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this 1304
division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1305
Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure 1306
information in the addendum or amended statement available online 1307
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of 1308
this section. 1309

(H)(1) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 1310
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe one or more 1311
techniques by which a person who executes and transmits by 1312
electronic means a statement of contributions and expenditures, a 1313
statement of independent expenditures, a disclosure of 1314
electioneering communications statement, a deposit and 1315
disbursement statement, ~~or~~ a gift and disbursement statement, or a 1316
donation and disbursement statement, an addendum to any of those 1317
statements, an amended statement of contributions and 1318
expenditures, an amended statement of independent expenditures, an 1319
amended disclosure of electioneering communications statement, an 1320
amended deposit and disbursement statement, ~~or~~ an amended gift and 1321
disbursement statement, or an amended donation and disbursement 1322
statement, under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 1323
3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 1324
Code shall electronically sign the statement, addendum, or amended 1325
statement. Any technique prescribed by the secretary of state 1326
pursuant to this division shall create an electronic signature 1327
that satisfies all of the following: 1328

(a) It is unique to the signer. 1329

(b) It objectively identifies the signer. 1330

(c) It involves the use of a signature device or other means 1331
or method that is under the sole control of the signer and that 1332
cannot be readily duplicated or compromised. 1333

(d) It is created and linked to the electronic record to 1334
which it relates in a manner that, if the record or signature is 1335
intentionally or unintentionally changed after signing, the 1336
electronic signature is invalidated. 1337

(2) An electronic signature prescribed by the secretary of 1338
state under division (H)(1) of this section shall be attached to 1339
or associated with the statement of contributions and 1340

expenditures, the statement of independent expenditures, the 1341
disclosure of electioneering communications statement, the deposit 1342
and disbursement statement, ~~or~~ the gift and disbursement 1343
statement, or the donation and disbursement statement, the 1344
addendum to any of those statements, the amended statement of 1345
contributions and expenditures, the amended statement of 1346
independent expenditures, the amended disclosure of electioneering 1347
communications statement, the amended deposit and disbursement 1348
statement, ~~or~~ the amended gift and disbursement statement, or the 1349
amended donation and disbursement statement that is executed and 1350
transmitted by electronic means by the person to whom the 1351
electronic signature is attributed. The electronic signature that 1352
is attached to or associated with the statement, addendum, or 1353
amended statement under this division shall be binding on all 1354
persons and for all purposes under the campaign finance reporting 1355
law as if the signature had been handwritten in ink on a printed 1356
form. 1357

(I) The secretary of state shall make the contribution and 1358
expenditure, the contribution and disbursement, the deposit and 1359
disbursement, ~~or~~ the gift and disbursement, or the donation and 1360
disbursement information in all statements, all addenda to the 1361
statements, and all amended statements that are filed with the 1362
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission 1363
under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 1364
3517.1012, 3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code 1365
available online to the public by any means that are searchable, 1366
viewable, and accessible through the internet. 1367

(J)(1) As used in this division, "library" means a library 1368
that is open to the public and that is one of the following: 1369

(a) A library that is maintained and regulated under section 1370
715.13 of the Revised Code; 1371

(b) A library that is created, maintained, and regulated 1372

under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code. 1373

(2) The secretary of state shall notify all libraries of the 1374
location on the internet at which the contribution and 1375
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 1376
disbursement, ~~or~~ gift and disbursement, or donation and 1377
disbursement information in campaign finance statements required 1378
to be made available online to the public through the internet 1379
pursuant to division (I) of this section may be accessed. 1380

If that location is part of the world wide web and if the 1381
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web 1382
location as required by this division, the library shall include a 1383
link to that world wide web location on each internet-connected 1384
computer it maintains that is accessible to the public. 1385

(3) If the system the secretary of state prescribes for the 1386
filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of 1387
transmission pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 1388
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1389
Code includes filing those statements through the internet via the 1390
world wide web, the secretary of state shall notify all libraries 1391
of the world wide web location at which those statements may be 1392
filed. 1393

If those statements may be filed through the internet via the 1394
world wide web and if the secretary of state has notified a 1395
library of that world wide web location as required by this 1396
division, the library shall include a link to that world wide web 1397
location on each internet-connected computer it maintains that is 1398
accessible to the public. 1399

(K) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint or charge 1400
brought against any campaign committee, political action 1401
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1402
fund, or political party, any individual, partnership, or other 1403

entity, ~~or~~ any person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1404
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or any 1405
treasurer of a transition fund, for the failure to file by 1406
electronic means of transmission a campaign finance statement as 1407
required by this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 1408
3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code that all 1409
of the following apply to the campaign committee, political action 1410
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1411
fund, or political party, the individual, partnership, or other 1412
entity, ~~or~~ the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1413
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1414
treasurer of a transition fund that failed to sofile: 1415

(1) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1417
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1418
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 1419
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1420
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1421
treasurer of a transition fund attempted to file by electronic 1422
means of transmission the required statement prior to the deadline 1423
set forth in the applicable section. 1424

(2) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1425
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1426
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 1427
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1428
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1429
treasurer of a transition fund was unable to file by electronic 1430
means of transmission due to an expected or unexpected shutdown of 1431
the whole or part of the electronic campaign finance 1432
statement-filing system, such as for maintenance or because of 1433
hardware, software, or network connection failure. 1434

(3) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1435

political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1436
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, ~~or~~ 1437
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1438
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1439
treasurer of a transition fund filed by electronic means of 1440
transmission the required statement within a reasonable period of 1441
time after being unable to so file it under the circumstance 1442
described in division (K)(2) of this section. 1443

(L)(1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 1444
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to permit a campaign committee of 1445
a candidate for statewide office that makes expenditures of less 1446
than twenty-five thousand dollars during the filing period or a 1447
campaign committee for the office of member of the general 1448
assembly or the office of judge of a court of appeals that would 1449
otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements by 1450
electronic means of transmission under division (E) or (F) of this 1451
section to file those statements by paper with the office of the 1452
secretary of state. Those rules shall provide for all of the 1453
following: 1454

(a) An eligible campaign committee that wishes to file a 1455
campaign finance statement by paper instead of by electronic means 1456
of transmission shall file the statement on paper with the office 1457
of the secretary of state not sooner than twenty-four hours after 1458
the end of the filing period set forth in section 3517.10 of the 1459
Revised Code that is covered by the applicable statement. 1460

(b) The statement shall be accompanied by a fee, the amount 1461
of which the secretary of state shall determine by rule. The 1462
amount of the fee established under this division shall not exceed 1463
the data entry and data verification costs the secretary of state 1464
will incur to convert the information on the statement to an 1465
electronic format as required under division (I) of this section. 1466

(c) The secretary of state shall arrange for the information 1467

in campaign finance statements filed pursuant to division (L) of 1468
this section to be made available online to the public through the 1469
internet in the same manner, and at the same times, as information 1470
is made available under divisions (E), (F), and (I) of this 1471
section for candidates whose campaign committees file those 1472
statements by electronic means of transmission. 1473

(d) The candidate of an eligible campaign committee that 1474
intends to file a campaign finance statement pursuant to division 1475
(L) of this section shall file a notice indicating that the 1476
candidate's campaign committee intends to so file and stating that 1477
filing the statement by electronic means of transmission would 1478
constitute a hardship for the candidate or for the eligible 1479
campaign committee. 1480

(e) An eligible campaign committee that files a campaign 1481
finance statement on paper pursuant to division (L) of this 1482
section shall review the contribution and information made 1483
available online by the secretary of state with respect to that 1484
paper filing and shall notify the secretary of state of any errors 1485
with respect to that filing that appear in the data made available 1486
on that web site. 1487

(f) If an eligible campaign committee whose candidate has 1488
filed a notice in accordance with rules adopted under division 1489
(L)(1)(d) of this section subsequently fails to file that 1490
statement on paper by the applicable deadline established in rules 1491
adopted under division (L)(1)(a) of this section, penalties for 1492
the late filing of the campaign finance statement shall apply to 1493
that campaign committee for each day after that paper filing 1494
deadline, as if the campaign committee had filed the statement 1495
after the applicable deadline set forth in division (A) of section 1496
3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1497

(2) The process for permitting campaign committees that would 1498
otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements by 1499

electronic means of transmission to file those statements on paper 1500
with the office of the secretary of state that is required to be 1501
developed under division (L)(1) of this section shall be in effect 1502
and available for use by eligible campaign committees for all 1503
campaign finance statements that are required to be filed on or 1504
after June 30, 2005. Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised 1505
Code to the contrary, if the process the secretary of state is 1506
required to develop under division (L)(1) of this section is not 1507
in effect and available for use on and after June 30, 2005, all 1508
penalties for the failure of campaign committees to file campaign 1509
finance statements by electronic means of transmission shall be 1510
suspended until such time as that process is in effect and 1511
available for use. 1512

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to the 1513
contrary, any eligible campaign committee that files campaign 1514
finance statements on paper with the office of the secretary of 1515
state pursuant to division (L)(1) of this section shall be deemed 1516
to have filed those campaign finance statements by electronic 1517
means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 1518

Sec. 3517.1014. (A) As used in this section: 1519

(1) "Donation" means a gift, subscription, loan, advance, or 1520
deposit of money, or anything of value that is specifically 1521
designated and used to defray any costs incurred for transition 1522
activities and inaugural celebrations and that is not used for the 1523
purpose of directly influencing the election of any candidate for 1524
any office. 1525

(2) "Costs incurred for transition activities and inaugural 1526
celebrations" means legitimate and verifiable costs that are 1527
incurred for ordinary and necessary activities associated with 1528
either of the following: 1529

(a) The transfer of power or authority from one state 1530

officeholder to another following a general or special election or 1531
appointment to office; 1532

(b) Ceremonies, events, or activities commemorating the 1533
commencement of a term or the commencement of an unexpired term of 1534
a state officeholder. 1535

(3) "State officeholder" means a person who has been elected 1536
or appointed to a state office. 1537

(4) "State office" means the joint offices of governor and 1538
lieutenant governor or the office of secretary of state, auditor 1539
of state, treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the 1540
general assembly, or chief justice or justice of the supreme 1541
court. 1542

(B)(1) A state officeholder may establish a transition fund 1543
to receive donations and to pay costs incurred for transition 1544
activities and inaugural celebrations. The state officeholder 1545
shall file a statement with the secretary of state establishing 1546
the fund and designating a treasurer for the fund. The secretary 1547
of state shall specify, by rule, the form of the statement. 1548

(2) A state officeholder may establish a transition fund: 1549

(a) After the unofficial results of the election at which the 1550
person seeks election to state office have been announced, if the 1551
number of ballots outstanding for that election are insufficient 1552
to change the unofficial election results; 1553

(b) After the canvass of the election returns has been 1554
completed for the election at which the person seeks election to 1555
state office, if the number of ballots outstanding for that 1556
election after the unofficial results of the election were 1557
announced were sufficient to potentially change the unofficial 1558
election results; or 1559

(c) After the person has been appointed to fill a vacancy in 1560

<u>an unexpired term of a state office.</u>	1561
<u>(C)(1)(a) Any person, including a for-profit or nonprofit corporation, may make a donation to a transition fund.</u>	1562
<u>(b) No person shall make a donation or donations to any one transition fund aggregating more than twenty-five thousand dollars.</u>	1564
<u>(2) No state officeholder shall accept a donation unless both of the following apply:</u>	1565
<u>(a) The state officeholder has established a transition fund under division (B) of this section; and</u>	1566
<u>(b) The donation is deposited to the credit of that fund.</u>	1567
<u>(3) No state officeholder or treasurer of a transition fund shall accept a donation or donations from any one person aggregating more than twenty-five thousand dollars.</u>	1568
<u>(D)(1) The treasurer of a transition fund shall keep a strict account of all donations to the fund and all disbursements from the fund.</u>	1569
<u>(2) The treasurer of a transition fund shall file, by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state, a full, true, and itemized statement describing each donation received and each disbursement made from the fund not later than four p.m. of the following dates:</u>	1570
<u>(a) The sixty-fifth day after the transition fund is created, to reflect donations received and disbursements made from the creation of the transition fund to the close of business on the fifth day before the statement is required to be filed;</u>	1571
<u>(b) The one hundred twenty-fifth day after the transition fund is created, to reflect donations received and disbursements made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement to the close of business on the</u>	1572
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<u>fifth day before the statement is required to be filed.</u>	1591
<u>(3) Each statement required under division (D)(2) of this section shall contain the following information:</u>	1592
<u>(a) The full name and address of the treasurer filing the statement and the full name and address of the state officeholder who is the beneficiary of the transition fund;</u>	1593
<u>(a) The full name and address of the treasurer filing the statement and the full name and address of the state officeholder who is the beneficiary of the transition fund;</u>	1594
<u>(a) The full name and address of the treasurer filing the statement and the full name and address of the state officeholder who is the beneficiary of the transition fund;</u>	1595
<u>(a) The full name and address of the treasurer filing the statement and the full name and address of the state officeholder who is the beneficiary of the transition fund;</u>	1596
<u>(b) A statement of donations received, which shall include all of the following:</u>	1597
<u>(b) A statement of donations received, which shall include all of the following:</u>	1598
<u>(i) The month, day, and year on which each donation was received;</u>	1599
<u>(i) The month, day, and year on which each donation was received;</u>	1600
<u>(ii) The full name and address of each donor;</u>	1601
<u>(iii) The nature of each donation, if other than money;</u>	1602
<u>(iv) The value of each donation in dollars and cents.</u>	1603
<u>(c) A statement of disbursements, which shall include all of the following:</u>	1604
<u>(c) A statement of disbursements, which shall include all of the following:</u>	1605
<u>(i) The name and address of each recipient of the disbursement;</u>	1606
<u>(i) The name and address of each recipient of the disbursement;</u>	1607
<u>(ii) The date of each disbursement;</u>	1608
<u>(iii) The amount of each disbursement;</u>	1609
<u>(iv) The purpose for which each disbursement was made.</u>	1610
<u>(d) The balance remaining in the fund.</u>	1611
<u>(E)(1) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to file a statement required to be filed under this section.</u>	1612
<u>(E)(1) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to file a statement required to be filed under this section.</u>	1613
<u>(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a donation required to be reported on a statement required to be filed under this section.</u>	1614
<u>(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a donation required to be reported on a statement required to be filed under this section.</u>	1615
<u>(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a donation required to be reported on a statement required to be filed under this section.</u>	1616
<u>(3) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a disbursement required</u>	1617
<u>(3) No treasurer of a transition fund shall knowingly fail to report, or shall knowingly misrepresent, a disbursement required</u>	1618

to be reported on a statement required to be filed under this 1619
section. 1620

(F) Upon request, the secretary of state shall issue a 1621
receipt for each statement filed under this section. The secretary 1622
of state shall maintain a record of the filing for at least ten 1623
years. All statements filed under this section shall be open to 1624
public inspection in the office in which they are filed. 1625

(G)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(1) of 1626
this section, no treasurer of a transition fund shall make a 1627
disbursement from the fund for a purpose other than to pay costs 1628
incurred for transition activities and inaugural celebrations. 1629

(2) No treasurer of a transition fund shall make a 1630
disbursement from the fund to make a contribution to a campaign 1631
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, 1632
political party, or political contributing entity. 1633

(3) No treasurer of a transition fund shall make a 1634
disbursement from the fund to reimburse any personal expenses of 1635
the beneficiary of the transition fund, except to reimburse the 1636
beneficiary of the transition fund for costs incurred for 1637
transition activities and inaugural celebrations. 1638

(H)(1) After the payment of all costs incurred for transition 1639
activities and inaugural celebrations, the treasurer of the 1640
transition fund shall dispose of any assets remaining in the 1641
transition fund not later than the one hundred twentieth day after 1642
the fund is created by doing any of the following: 1643

(a) Giving the amount to the treasurer of state for deposit 1644
into the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio elections 1645
commission fund created by division (I) of section 3517.152 of the 1646
Revised Code; 1647

(b) Giving the amount to individuals who made donations to 1648
that transition fund as a refund of all or part of their 1649

donations; 1650

(c) Giving the amount to a corporation that is exempt from 1651
federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in 1652
subsection 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. 1653

(2) Not later than one hundred twenty-five days after the day 1654
the transition fund is created, the treasurer of the transition 1655
fund shall file a final statement of donations and disbursements 1656
under division (D) of this section that includes the disbursements 1657
made under division (H)(1) of this section. Upon the filing of 1658
that statement, the transition fund shall cease to exist. 1659

1660

Sec. 3517.11. (A)(1) Campaign committees of candidates for 1661
statewide office or the state board of education, political action 1662
committees or political contributing entities that make 1663
contributions to campaign committees of candidates that are 1664
required to file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 1665
the Revised Code with the secretary of state, political action 1666
committees or political contributing entities that make 1667
contributions to campaign committees of candidates for member of 1668
the general assembly, political action committees or political 1669
contributing entities that make contributions to state and 1670
national political parties and to legislative campaign funds, 1671
political action committees or political contributing entities 1672
that receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with 1673
a statewide ballot issue, political action committees or political 1674
contributing entities that make contributions to other political 1675
action committees or political contributing entities, political 1676
parties, and campaign committees, except as set forth in division 1677
(A)(3) of this section, legislative campaign funds, and state and 1678
national political parties shall file the statements prescribed by 1679
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the secretary of state. 1680

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of 1681
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, campaign committees of 1682
candidates for all other offices shall file the statements 1683
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board 1684
of elections where their candidates are required to file their 1685
petitions or other papers for nomination or election. 1686

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for office of member 1687
of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate for 1688
the office of judge of a court of appeals shall file two copies of 1689
the printed version of any statement, addendum, or amended 1690
statement if the committee does not file pursuant to division 1691
(F)(1) or (L) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code but files by 1692
printed version only with the appropriate board of elections. The 1693
board of elections shall send one of those copies by certified 1694
mail to the secretary of state before the close of business on the 1695
day the board of elections receives the statement, addendum, or 1696
amended statement. 1697

(3) Political action committees or political contributing 1698
entities that only contribute to a county political party, 1699
contribute to campaign committees of candidates whose nomination 1700
or election is to be submitted only to electors within a county, 1701
subdivision, or district, excluding candidates for member of the 1702
general assembly, and receive contributions or make expenditures 1703
in connection with ballot questions or issues to be submitted only 1704
to electors within a county, subdivision, or district shall file 1705
the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1706
with the board of elections in that county or in the county 1707
contained in whole or part within the subdivision or district 1708
having a population greater than that of any other county 1709
contained in whole or part within that subdivision or district, as 1710
the case may be. 1711

(4) Except as otherwise provided in division (E)(3) of 1712

section 3517.106 of the Revised Code with respect to state 1713
candidate funds, county political parties shall file the 1714
statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with 1715
the board of elections of their respective counties. 1716

(B)(1) The official with whom petitions and other papers for 1717
nomination or election to public office are filed shall furnish 1718
each candidate at the time of that filing a copy of sections 1719
3517.01, 3517.08 to 3517.11, 3517.13 to 3517.993, 3599.03, and 1720
3599.031 of the Revised Code and any other materials that the 1721
secretary of state may require. Each candidate receiving the 1722
materials shall acknowledge their receipt in writing. 1723

(2) On or before the tenth day before the dates on which 1724
statements are required to be filed by section 3517.10 of the 1725
Revised Code, every candidate subject to the provisions of this 1726
section and sections 3517.10 and 3517.106 of the Revised Code 1727
shall be notified of the requirements and applicable penalties of 1728
those sections. The secretary of state, by certified mail, return 1729
receipt requested, shall notify all candidates required to file 1730
those statements with the secretary of state's office. The board 1731
of elections of every county shall notify by first class mail any 1732
candidate who has personally appeared at the office of the board 1733
on or before the tenth day before the statements are required to 1734
be filed and signed a form, to be provided by the secretary of 1735
state, attesting that the candidate has been notified of the 1736
candidate's obligations under the campaign finance law. The board 1737
shall forward the completed form to the secretary of state. The 1738
board shall use certified mail, return receipt requested, to 1739
notify all other candidates required to file those statements with 1740
it. 1741

(3)(a) Any statement required to be filed under sections 1742
3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code that is found to be 1743
incomplete or inaccurate by the officer to whom it is submitted 1744

shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the person who filed 1745
it shall be notified by certified mail as to the incomplete or 1746
inaccurate nature of the statement. The secretary of state may 1747
examine statements filed for candidates for the office of member 1748
of the general assembly and candidates for the office of judge of 1749
a court of appeals for completeness and accuracy. The secretary of 1750
state shall examine for completeness and accuracy statements that 1751
campaign committees of candidates for the office of member of the 1752
general assembly and campaign committees of candidates for the 1753
office of judge of a court of appeals file pursuant to division 1754
(F) or (L) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. If an officer 1755
at the board of elections where a statement filed for a candidate 1756
for the office of member of the general assembly or for a 1757
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals was 1758
submitted finds the statement to be incomplete or inaccurate, the 1759
officer shall immediately notify the secretary of state of its 1760
incomplete or inaccurate nature. If either an officer at the board 1761
of elections or the secretary of state finds a statement filed for 1762
a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or 1763
for a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals to 1764
be incomplete or inaccurate, only the secretary of state shall 1765
send the notification as to the incomplete or inaccurate nature of 1766
the statement. 1767

Within twenty-one days after receipt of the notice, in the 1768
case of a pre-election statement, a postelection statement, a 1769
monthly statement, an annual statement, or a semiannual statement 1770
prescribed by section 3517.10, an annual statement prescribed by 1771
section 3517.101, or a statement prescribed by division (B)(2)(b) 1772
or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 or section 3517.107 of the 1773
Revised Code, the recipient shall file an addendum, amendment, or 1774
other correction to the statement providing the information 1775
necessary to complete or correct the statement. The secretary of 1776
state may require that, in lieu of filing an addendum, amendment, 1777

or other correction to a statement that is filed by electronic 1778
means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state 1779
pursuant to section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the recipient of 1780
the notice described in this division file by electronic means of 1781
transmission an amended statement that incorporates the 1782
information necessary to complete or correct the statement. 1783

The secretary of state shall determine by rule when an 1784
addendum, amendment, or other correction to any of the following 1785
or when an amended statement of any of the following shall be 1786
filed: 1787

(i) A two-business-day statement prescribed by section 1788
3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1789

(ii) A disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1790
prescribed by division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised 1791
Code; 1792

(iii) A deposit and disbursement statement prescribed under 1793
division (B) of section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code; 1794

(iv) A gift and disbursement statement prescribed under 1795
section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code; 1796

(v) A donation and disbursement statement prescribed under 1797
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 1798

An addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement 1799
that is filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to 1800
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in the same 1801
manner as the statement. 1802

The provisions of sections 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 1803
3517.1012, ~~and~~ 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code 1804
pertaining to the filing of statements of contributions and 1805
expenditures, statements of independent expenditures, disclosure 1806
of electioneering communications statements, deposit and 1807

disbursement statements, ~~and~~ gift and disbursement statements, and 1808
donation and disbursement statements by electronic means of 1809
transmission apply to the filing of addenda, amendments, or other 1810
corrections to those statements by electronic means of 1811
transmission and the filing of amended statements by electronic 1812
means of transmission. 1813

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 1814
receives, by electronic or other means of transmission, an 1815
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or an 1816
amended statement under division (B)(3)(a) of this section, the 1817
secretary of state, pursuant to divisions (E), (F), (G), and (I) 1818
of section 3517.106 or division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the 1819
Revised Code, shall make the contribution and expenditure, 1820
contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, ~~or~~ gift 1821
and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in that 1822
addendum, amendment, correction, or amended statement available 1823
online to the public through the internet. 1824

(4)(a) The secretary of state or the board of elections shall 1825
examine all statements for compliance with sections 3517.08 to 1826
3517.17 of the Revised Code. 1827

(b) The secretary of state may contract with an individual or 1828
entity not associated with the secretary of state and experienced 1829
in interpreting the campaign finance law of this state to conduct 1830
examinations of statements filed by any statewide candidate, as 1831
defined in section 3517.103 of the Revised Code. 1832

(c) The examination shall be conducted by a person or entity 1833
qualified to conduct it. The results of the examination shall be 1834
available to the public, and, when the examination is conducted by 1835
an individual or entity not associated with the secretary of 1836
state, the results of the examination shall be reported to the 1837
secretary of state. 1838

(C)(1) In the event of a failure to file or a late filing of 1839
a statement required to be filed under sections 3517.081 to 1840
3517.17 of the Revised Code, or if a filed statement or any 1841
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or any 1842
amended statement, if an addendum, amendment, or other correction 1843
or an amended statement is required to be filed, is incomplete or 1844
inaccurate or appears to disclose a failure to comply with or a 1845
violation of law, the official whose duty it is to examine the 1846
statement shall promptly file a complaint with the Ohio elections 1847
commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code if the law 1848
is one over which the commission has jurisdiction to hear 1849
complaints, or the official shall promptly report the failure or 1850
violation to the board of elections and the board shall promptly 1851
report it to the prosecuting attorney in accordance with division 1852
(J) of section 3501.11 of the Revised Code. If the official files 1853
a complaint with the commission, the commission shall proceed in 1854
accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. 1855

(2) For purposes of division (C)(1) of this section, a 1856
statement or an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1857
statement or an amended statement required to be filed under 1858
sections 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code is incomplete or 1859
inaccurate under this section if the statement, addendum, 1860
amendment, other correction, or amended statement fails to 1861
disclose substantially all contributions ~~or~~, gifts, or donations 1862
that are received or deposits that are made that are required to 1863
be reported under sections 3517.10, 3517.107, 3517.108, 3517.1011, 1864
3517.1012, ~~and~~ 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code or if 1865
the statement, addendum, amendment, other correction, or amended 1866
statement fails to disclose at least ninety per cent of the total 1867
contributions ~~or~~, gifts, or donations received or deposits made or 1868
of the total expenditures or disbursements made during the 1869
reporting period. 1870

(D) No certificate of nomination or election shall be issued 1871
to a person, and no person elected to an office shall enter upon 1872
the performance of the duties of that office, until that person or 1873
that person's campaign committee, as appropriate, has fully 1874
complied with this section and sections 3517.08, 3517.081, 1875
3517.10, and 3517.13 of the Revised Code. 1876

Sec. 3517.153. (A) Upon the filing of a complaint with the 1877
Ohio elections commission, which shall be made by affidavit of any 1878
person, on personal knowledge, and subject to the penalties for 1879
perjury, or upon the filing of a complaint made by the secretary 1880
of state or an official at the board of elections, setting forth a 1881
failure to comply with or a violation of any provision in sections 1882
3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, 1883
or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, the commission shall proceed in 1884
accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. 1885

(B) The commission shall prescribe the form for complaints 1886
made under division (A) of this section. The secretary of state 1887
and boards of elections shall furnish the information that the 1888
commission requests. The commission or a member of the commission 1889
may administer oaths, and the commission may issue subpoenas to 1890
any person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 1891
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. 1892
Section 101.42 of the Revised Code governs the issuance of 1893
subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any person to 1894
obey a subpoena or to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the 1895
commission may apply to the court of common pleas of Franklin 1896
county under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall 1897
hold proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised 1898
Code. 1899

(C) No prosecution shall commence for a violation of a 1900
provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 1901

3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code 1902
unless a complaint has been filed with the commission under this 1903
section and all proceedings of the commission or a panel of the 1904
commission, as appropriate, under sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of 1905
the Revised Code are completed. 1906

(D) The commission may recommend legislation and render 1907
advisory opinions concerning sections 3517.08, 3517.082, 3517.092, 1908
3517.102, 3517.103, 3517.105, 3517.1014, 3517.13, 3517.18, 3517.20 1909
to 3517.22, 3599.03, and 3599.031 of the Revised Code for persons 1910
over whose acts it has or may have jurisdiction. When the 1911
commission renders an advisory opinion relating to a specific set 1912
of circumstances involving any of those sections stating that 1913
there is no violation of a provision in those sections, the person 1914
to whom the opinion is directed or a person who is similarly 1915
situated may reasonably rely on the opinion and is immune from 1916
criminal prosecution and a civil action, including, without 1917
limitation, a civil action for removal from public office or 1918
employment, based on facts and circumstances covered by the 1919
opinion. 1920

(E) The commission shall establish a web site on which it 1921
shall post, at a minimum, all decisions and advisory opinions 1922
issued by the commission and copies of each election law as it is 1923
amended by the general assembly. The commission shall update the 1924
web site regularly to reflect any changes to those decisions and 1925
advisory opinions and any new decisions and advisory opinions. 1926

Sec. 3517.154. (A)(1) The full-time attorney for the Ohio 1927
elections commission shall review each complaint filed with the 1928
commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code, shall 1929
determine the nature of the complaint, and, unless division 1930
(A)(2)(a) of this section requires that the complaint receive an 1931
automatic expedited hearing, shall make a recommendation to the 1932

commission for its disposition, in accordance with this section. 1933
The attorney shall make the determination and the recommendation, 1934
if required, not later than one business day after the complaint 1935
is filed. 1936

(2)(a) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets 1937
forth a violation of division (B) of section 3517.21 or division 1938
(B) of section 3517.22 of the Revised Code and that the complaint 1939
is filed during one of the periods of time specified in division 1940
(B)(1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, or that the 1941
complaint sets forth a violation of section 3517.103 of the 1942
Revised Code or a violation described in division (D) of section 1943
3517.1010 of the Revised Code, the complaint shall receive an 1944
automatic expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised 1945
Code. 1946

(b) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets forth 1947
a failure to comply with or a violation of division (G), (I), (J), 1948
(O), (P), or (Q) of section 3517.13, division (A) of section 1949
3517.21, or division (A) of section 3517.22 of the Revised Code 1950
and that the complaint is filed during one of the periods of time 1951
specified in division (B)(1) of section 3517.156 of the Revised 1952
Code, the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the 1953
complaint receive an expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of 1954
the Revised Code, and the complaint shall receive such a hearing. 1955

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint sets forth 1956
a failure to comply with or a violation of a section of the 1957
Revised Code over which the commission has jurisdiction to hear 1958
complaints other than the sections described in divisions 1959
(A)(2)(a) and (b) of this section, and unless the attorney makes a 1960
determination as provided for in division (A)(3) of this section, 1961
the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the complaint 1962
be submitted to the commission under section 3517.155 of the 1963
Revised Code. After the attorney makes that recommendation, the 1964

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~~ 1997
gifts and disbursements, or donations and disbursements not 1998
reported or how late they were reported; 1999

(iv) If the complaint involves contributions required to be 2000
reported by a campaign committee under section 3517.10, division 2001
(E) of section 3517.102, or section 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 2002
or 3517.109 of the Revised Code that are not reported, whether any 2003
of the contributors of the contributions not reported have a 2004
personal or professional relationship with the campaign 2005
committee's candidate; 2006

(v) If the complaint involves a statement required to be 2007
filed under section 3517.10, division (E) of section 3517.102, or 2008
section 3517.103, 3517.105, 3517.107, 3517.108, 3517.109, 2009
3517.1011, 3517.1012, ~~or~~ 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 2010
Code that is incomplete, the degree to which it is incomplete; 2011

(vi) If the complaint involves the receipt of contributions 2012
in violation of section 3599.03 of the Revised Code, the dollar 2013
amount and number of contributions received in violation of that 2014
section; 2015

(vii) If the complaint involves a failure to make the 2016
identification or a misstatement of the identification required 2017
under section 3517.105 or 3517.20 of the Revised Code, whether the 2018
failure or misstatement was purposely made; 2019

(viii) If the complaint sets forth a failure to comply with 2020
or a violation of a section of the Revised Code described in 2021
division (A)(2)(c) of this section, whether the person or entity 2022
against whom the complaint has been made has committed more than 2023
one such failure or violation within a reasonable amount of time, 2024
or whether the cumulative nature of the failures or violations 2025
indicates a systematic disregard for the law. 2026

(b) Prior to making a determination under division (A)(3)(a) 2027

of this section that the complaint should receive an expedited 2028
hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the attorney 2029
shall take into consideration the number of panels of the 2030
commission that have cases pending before them and the number of 2031
cases pending before the panels and shall not make a determination 2032
that will place an undue burden on a panel of the commission. 2033

(c) If the attorney determines that the complaint should 2034
receive an expedited hearing under section 3517.156 of the Revised 2035
Code, the attorney shall recommend to the commission that the 2036
complaint receive an expedited hearing, and, if a majority of the 2037
members of the commission agrees with the recommendation, the 2038
complaint shall receive an expedited hearing under that section. 2039

(4) The attorney may join two or more complaints if the 2040
attorney determines that the allegations in each complaint are of 2041
the same or similar character, are based on the same act or 2042
failure to act, or are based on two or more acts or failures to 2043
act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If one 2044
complaint contains two or more allegations, the attorney may 2045
separate the allegations if they are not of the same or similar 2046
character, if they are not based on the same act or failure to 2047
act, or if they are not based on two or more acts or failures to 2048
act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If the attorney 2049
separates the allegations in a complaint, the attorney may make 2050
separate recommendations under division (A)(2) or (3) of this 2051
section for each allegation. 2052

(B) Whenever a person or other entity files a complaint with 2053
the commission setting forth a failure to comply with or a 2054
violation of a section of the Revised Code as described in 2055
division (A)(2)(c) of this section and the complaint is filed 2056
during one of the periods of time specified in division (B)(1) of 2057
section 3517.156 of the Revised Code, the person or entity may 2058
request an expedited hearing under that section at the time the 2059

complaint is filed. The attorney for the commission shall inform 2060
the members of the commission of that request at the time the 2061
attorney makes a recommendation under division (A) of this 2062
section. The commission may grant the request for an expedited 2063
hearing under this division if it determines that an expedited 2064
hearing is practicable. 2065

Sec. 3517.992. This section establishes penalties only with 2066
respect to acts or failures to act that occur on and after August 2067
24, 1995. 2068

(A)(1) A candidate whose campaign committee violates division 2069
(A), (B), (C), (D), or (V) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, 2070
or a treasurer of a campaign committee who violates any of those 2071
divisions, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for 2072
each day of violation. 2073

(2) Whoever violates division (E) or (X)(5) of section 2074
3517.13 or division (E)(1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised 2075
Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each day 2076
of violation. 2077

(B) A political party that violates division (F)(1) of 2078
section 3517.101 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2079
one hundred dollars for each day of violation. 2080

(C) Whoever violates division (F)(2) of section 3517.101 ~~or~~ 2081
division (G) of section 3517.13, or division (E)(2) or (3) of 2082
section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2083
ten thousand dollars or, if the offender is a person who was 2084
nominated or elected to public office, shall forfeit the 2085
nomination or the office to which the offender was elected, or 2086
both. 2087

(D) Whoever violates division (F) of section 3517.13 of the 2088
Revised Code shall be fined not more than three times the amount 2089

contributed. 2090

(E) Whoever violates division (H) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars. 2091
2092

(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. 2093
2094
2095

(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. 2096
2097
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2099

(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. 2100
2101
2102

(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. 2103
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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. 2108
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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. 2112
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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. 2116
2117
2118
2119

(b) Any state political party, county political party, or state candidate fund of a state political party or county political party 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.

(c) Any political contributing entity that violates division (B)(7) 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.

(5) Any political party that violates division (B)(4) 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.

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

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

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

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

(2)(a) Any county political party that violates division 2151
(C)(4)(a)(ii) or (iii) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code 2152
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted. 2153

(b) Any county political party that violates division 2154
(C)(4)(a)(i) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be 2155
fined an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times 2156
the amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2157
division. 2158

(c) Any state political party that violates division 2159
(C)(4)(b) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2160
an amount from its state candidate fund equal to three times the 2161
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2162
division. 2163

(3) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2164
(C)(5) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined an 2165
amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess of the 2166
amount permitted by that division. 2167

(4) Any political action committee or political contributing 2168
entity that violates division (C)(7) of section 3517.102 of the 2169
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2170
amount accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that 2171
division. 2172

(5) Notwithstanding divisions (J)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of 2173
this section, no violation of division (C) of section 3517.102 of 2174
the Revised Code occurs, and the secretary of state shall not 2175
refer parties to the Ohio elections commission, if the amount 2176
transferred or contributed in excess of the amount permitted to be 2177
accepted by that division meets either of the following 2178
conditions: 2179

(a) It is completely refunded within five business days after 2180
its acceptance. 2181

(b) It is completely refunded on or before the tenth business 2182
day after notification to the recipient of the excess transfer or 2183
contribution by the board of elections or the secretary of state 2184
that a transfer or contribution in excess of the permitted amount 2185
has been received. 2186

(K)(1) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2187
(F)(1) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2188
twenty-five dollars for each day of violation. 2189

(2) Any legislative campaign fund that violates division 2190
(F)(2) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code shall give to the 2191
treasurer of state for deposit into the state treasury to the 2192
credit of the Ohio elections commission fund all excess 2193
contributions not disposed of as required by division (E) of 2194
section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. 2195

(L) Whoever violates section 3517.105 of the Revised Code 2196
shall be fined one thousand dollars. 2197

(M)(1) Whoever solicits a contribution in violation of 2198
section 3517.092 or violates division (B) of section 3517.09 of 2199
the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 2200

(2) Whoever knowingly accepts a contribution in violation of 2201
division (B) or (C) of section 3517.092 of the Revised Code shall 2202
be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in 2203
violation of either of those divisions and shall return to the 2204
contributor any amount so accepted. Whoever unknowingly accepts a 2205
contribution in violation of division (B) or (C) of section 2206
3517.092 of the Revised Code shall return to the contributor any 2207
amount so accepted. 2208

(N) Whoever violates division (S) of section 3517.13 of the 2209
Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the 2210
amount of funds transferred or three times the value of the assets 2211
transferred in violation of that division. 2212

(O) Any campaign committee that accepts a contribution or 2213
contributions in violation of section 3517.108 of the Revised 2214
Code, uses a contribution in violation of that section, or fails 2215
to dispose of excess contributions in violation of that section 2216
shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted, 2217
used, or kept in violation of that section. 2218

(P) Any political party, state candidate fund, legislative 2219
candidate fund, or campaign committee that violates division (T) 2220
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount 2221
equal to three times the amount contributed or accepted in 2222
violation of that section. 2223

(Q) A treasurer of a committee or another person who violates 2224
division (U) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined 2225
not more than two hundred fifty dollars. 2226

(R) Whoever violates division (I) or (J) of section 3517.13 2227
of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand 2228
dollars. Whenever a person is found guilty of violating division 2229
(I) or (J) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, the contract 2230
awarded in violation of either of those divisions shall be 2231
rescinded if its terms have not yet been performed. 2232

(S) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2233
treasurer of a campaign committee who violates section 3517.081 of 2234
the Revised Code, and a candidate whose campaign committee 2235
violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or another person 2236
who violates division (C) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, 2237
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2238

(T) A candidate whose campaign committee violates or a 2239
treasurer of a committee who violates division (B) of section 2240
3517.09 of the Revised Code, or a candidate whose campaign 2241
committee violates or a treasurer of a campaign committee or 2242
another person who violates division (C) of section 3517.09 of the 2243

Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars. 2244

(U) Whoever violates section 3517.20 of the Revised Code 2245
shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. 2246

(V) Whoever violates section 3517.21 or 3517.22 of the 2247
Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or 2248
fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both. 2249

(W) A campaign committee that is required to file a 2250
declaration of no limits under division (D)(2) of section 3517.103 2251
of the Revised Code that, before filing that declaration, accepts 2252
a contribution or contributions that exceed the limitations 2253
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, shall return 2254
that contribution or those contributions to the contributor. 2255

(X) Any campaign committee that fails to file the declaration 2256
of filing-day finances required by division (F) of section 2257
3517.109 or the declaration of primary-day finances or declaration 2258
of year-end finances required by division (E) of section 3517.1010 2259
of the Revised Code shall be fined twenty-five dollars for each 2260
day of violation. 2261

(Y)(1) Any campaign committee that fails to dispose of excess 2262
funds or excess aggregate contributions under division (B) of 2263
section 3517.109 of the Revised Code in the manner required by 2264
division (C) of that section or under division (B) of section 2265
3517.1010 of the Revised Code in the manner required by division 2266
(C) of that section shall give to the treasurer of state for 2267
deposit into the Ohio elections commission fund created under 2268
division (I) of section 3517.152 of the Revised Code all funds not 2269
disposed of pursuant to those divisions. 2270

(2) Any treasurer of a transition fund that fails to dispose 2271
of assets remaining in the transition fund as required under 2272
division (H)(1) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall 2273
give to the treasurer of state for deposit into the Ohio elections 2274

commission fund all assets not disposed of pursuant to that 2275
division. 2276

(Z) Any individual, campaign committee, political action 2277
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 2278
fund, political party, treasurer of a transition fund, or other 2279
entity that violates any provision of sections 3517.09 to 3517.12 2280
of the Revised Code for which no penalty is provided for under any 2281
other division of this section shall be fined not more than one 2282
thousand dollars. 2283

(AA)(1) Whoever knowingly violates division (W)(1) of section 2284
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2285
three times the amount contributed, expended, or promised in 2286
violation of that division or ten thousand dollars, whichever 2287
amount is greater. 2288

(2) Whoever knowingly violates division (W)(2) of section 2289
3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to 2290
three times the amount solicited or accepted in violation of that 2291
division or ten thousand dollars, whichever amount is greater. 2292

(BB) Whoever knowingly violates division (C) or (D) of 2293
section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than 2294
ten thousand dollars plus not more than one thousand dollars for 2295
each day of violation. 2296

(CC)(1) Subject to division (CC)(2) of this section, whoever 2297
violates division (H) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code 2298
shall be fined an amount up to three times the amount disbursed 2299
for the direct costs of airing the communication made in violation 2300
of that division. 2301

(2) Whoever has been ordered by the Ohio elections commission 2302
or by a court of competent jurisdiction to cease making 2303
communications in violation of division (H) of section 3517.1011 2304
of the Revised Code who again violates that division shall be 2305

2306 fined an amount equal to three times the amount disbursed for the
2307 direct costs of airing the communication made in violation of that
2308 division.

2309 (DD)(1) Any corporation or labor organization that violates
2310 division (X)(3)(a) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be
2311 fined an amount equal to three times the amount given in excess of
2312 the amount permitted by that division.

2313 (2) Any state or county political party that violates
2314 division (X)(3)(b) of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code shall be
2315 fined an amount equal to three times the amount accepted in excess
2316 of the amount permitted by that division.

2317 (EE)(1) Any person who violates division (C)(1)(b) of section
2318 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall be fined an amount equal to
2319 three times the amount donated in excess of the amount permitted
2320 by that division.

2321 (2) Any state officeholder or treasurer of a transition fund
2322 who violates division (C)(3) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised
2323 Code shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount
2324 accepted in excess of the amount permitted by that division.

2325 As used in this division, "state officeholder" has the same
2326 meaning as in section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code.

2327 **Sec. 3599.03.** (A)(1) Except to carry on activities specified
2328 in sections 3517.082 and 3517.1011, division (A)(2) of section
2329 3517.1012, division (B) of section 3517.1013, division (C)(1) of
2330 section 3517.1014, and section 3599.031 of the Revised Code and
2331 except as provided in divisions (D), (E), and (F) of this section,
2332 no corporation, no nonprofit corporation, and no labor
2333 organization, directly or indirectly, shall pay or use, or offer,
2334 advise, consent, or agree to pay or use, the corporation's money
2335 or property, or the labor organization's money, including dues,

initiation fees, or other assessments paid by members, or 2336
property, for or in aid of or opposition to a political party, a 2337
candidate for election or nomination to public office, a political 2338
action committee including a political action committee of the 2339
corporation or labor organization, a legislative campaign fund, or 2340
any organization that supports or opposes any such candidate, or 2341
for any partisan political purpose, shall violate any law 2342
requiring the filing of an affidavit or statement respecting such 2343
use of those funds, or shall pay or use the corporation's or labor 2344
organization's money for the expenses of a social fund-raising 2345
event for its political action committee if an employee's or labor 2346
organization member's right to attend such an event is predicated 2347
on the employee's or member's contribution to the corporation's or 2348
labor organization's political action committee. 2349

(2) Whoever violates division (A)(1) of this section shall be 2350
fined not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand 2351
dollars. 2352

(B)(1) No officer, stockholder, attorney, or agent of a 2353
corporation or nonprofit corporation, no member, including an 2354
officer, attorney, or agent, of a labor organization, and no 2355
candidate, political party official, or other individual shall 2356
knowingly aid, advise, solicit, or receive money or other property 2357
in violation of division (A)(1) of this section. 2358

(2) Whoever violates division (B)(1) of this section shall be 2359
fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more 2360
than one year, or both. 2361

(C) A corporation, a nonprofit corporation, or a labor 2362
organization may use its funds or property for or in aid of or 2363
opposition to a proposed or certified ballot issue. Such use of 2364
funds or property shall be reported on a form prescribed by the 2365
secretary of state. Reports of contributions in connection with 2366
statewide ballot issues shall be filed with the secretary of 2367

state. Reports of contributions in connection with local issues 2368
shall be filed with the board of elections of the most populous 2369
county of the district in which the issue is submitted or to be 2370
submitted to the electors. Reports made pursuant to this division 2371
shall be filed by the times specified in divisions (A)(1) and (2) 2372
of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 2373

(D)(1) Any gift made pursuant to section 3517.101 of the 2374
Revised Code does not constitute a violation of this section or of 2375
any other section of the Revised Code. 2376

(2) Any gift made pursuant to division (A)(2) of section 2377
3517.1012 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2378
this section. 2379

(3) Any gift made pursuant to division (B) of section 2380
3517.1013 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2381
this section. 2382

(4) Any donation made pursuant to division (C)(1) of section 2383
3517.1014 of the Revised Code does not constitute a violation of 2384
this section. 2385

(E) Any compensation or fees paid by a financial institution 2386
to a state political party for services rendered pursuant to 2387
division (B) of section 3517.19 of the Revised Code do not 2388
constitute a violation of this section or of any other section of 2389
the Revised Code. 2390

(F)(1) The use by a nonprofit corporation of its money or 2391
property for communicating information for a purpose specified in 2392
division (A) of this section is not a violation of that division 2393
if the stockholders, members, donors, trustees, or officers of the 2394
nonprofit corporation are the predominant recipients of the 2395
communication. 2396

(2) The placement of a campaign sign on the property of a 2397
corporation, nonprofit corporation, or labor organization is not a 2398

use of property in violation of division (A) of this section by 2399
that corporation, nonprofit corporation, or labor organization. 2400

(3) The use by a corporation or labor organization of its 2401
money or property for communicating information for a purpose 2402
specified in division (A) of this section is not a violation of 2403
that division if it is not a communication made by mass broadcast 2404
such as radio or television or made by advertising in a newspaper 2405
of general circulation but is a communication sent exclusively to 2406
members, employees, officers, or trustees of that labor 2407
organization or shareholders, employees, officers, or directors of 2408
that corporation or to members of the immediate families of any 2409
such individuals or if the communication intended to be so sent 2410
exclusively is unintentionally sent as well to a de minimis number 2411
of other individuals. 2412

(G) In addition to the laws listed in division (A) of section 2413
4117.10 of the Revised Code that prevail over conflicting 2414
agreements between employee organizations and public employers, 2415
this section prevails over any conflicting provisions of 2416
agreements between labor organizations and public employers that 2417
are entered into on or after ~~the effective date of this section~~ 2418
March 31, 2005, pursuant to Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code. 2419

(H) As used in this section, "labor organization" has the 2420
same meaning as in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 2421

Section 2. That existing sections 3517.01, 3517.10, 3517.106, 2422
3517.11, 3517.153, 3517.154, 3517.992, and 3599.03 of the Revised 2423
Code are hereby repealed. 2424