
SENATE BILL 6775

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, Horn, Haugen, Shin, Prentice, Goings, Gardner and Costa

Read first time 01/26/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to filing of reports with the public disclosure
2 commission; amending RCW 42.17.065, 42.17.080, 42.17.369, 42.17.3691,
3 and 42.17.461; and adding a new section to chapter 42.17 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.065 and 1989 c 280 s 5 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) In addition to the provisions of this section, a continuing
8 political committee shall file and report on the same conditions and at
9 the same times as any other committee in accordance with the provisions
10 of RCW 42.17.040, 42.17.050, and 42.17.060.

11 (2) A continuing political committee shall file with the commission
12 and the auditor or elections officer of the county in which the
13 committee maintains its office or headquarters and if there is no such
14 office or headquarters then in the county in which the committee
15 treasurer resides a report on the tenth day of the month detailing its
16 activities for the preceding calendar month in which the committee has
17 received a contribution or made an expenditure: PROVIDED, That such
18 report shall only be filed if either the total contributions received
19 or total expenditures made since the last such report exceed two

1 hundred dollars: PROVIDED FURTHER, That after January 1, 2002, if the
2 committee files with the commission electronically, it need not also
3 file with the county auditor or elections officer. The report shall be
4 on a form supplied by the commission and shall include the following
5 information:

6 (a) The information required by RCW 42.17.090;

7 (b) Each expenditure made to retire previously accumulated debts of
8 the committee; identified by recipient, amount, and date of payments;

9 (c) Such other information as the commission shall by rule
10 prescribe.

11 (3) If a continuing political committee shall make a contribution
12 in support of or in opposition to a candidate or ballot proposition
13 within sixty days prior to the date on which such candidate or ballot
14 proposition will be voted upon, such continuing political committee
15 shall report pursuant to RCW 42.17.080.

16 (4) A continuing political committee shall file reports as required
17 by this chapter until it is dissolved, at which time a final report
18 shall be filed. Upon submitting a final report, the duties of the
19 campaign treasurer shall cease and there shall be no obligation to make
20 any further reports.

21 (5) The campaign treasurer shall maintain books of account
22 accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current
23 basis within five business days of receipt or expenditure. During the
24 eight days immediately preceding the date of any election, for which
25 the committee has received any contributions or made any expenditures,
26 the books of account shall be kept current within one business day and
27 shall be open for public inspection for at least two consecutive hours
28 Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and
29 8:00 p.m., as specified in the committee's statement of organization
30 filed pursuant to RCW 42.17.040, at the principal campaign headquarters
31 or, if there is no campaign headquarters, at the address of the
32 campaign treasurer or such other place as may be authorized by the
33 commission.

34 (6) All reports filed pursuant to this section shall be certified
35 as correct by the campaign treasurer.

36 (7) The campaign treasurer shall preserve books of account, bills,
37 receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign or political
38 committee for not less than five calendar years following the year
39 during which the transaction occurred.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.080 and 1999 c 401 s 13 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) On the day the treasurer is designated, each candidate or
4 political committee shall file with the commission and the county
5 auditor or elections officer of the county in which the candidate
6 resides, or in the case of a political committee, the county in which
7 the treasurer resides, in addition to any statement of organization
8 required under RCW 42.17.040 or 42.17.050, a report of all
9 contributions received and expenditures made prior to that date, if
10 any.

11 (2) At the following intervals each treasurer shall file with the
12 commission and the county auditor or elections officer of the county in
13 which the candidate resides, or in the case of a political committee,
14 the county in which the committee maintains its office or headquarters,
15 and if there is no office or headquarters then in the county in which
16 the treasurer resides, a report containing the information required by
17 RCW 42.17.090:

18 (a) On the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately
19 preceding the date on which the election is held; and

20 (b) On the tenth day of the first month after the election:
21 PROVIDED, That this report shall not be required following a primary
22 election from:

23 (i) A candidate whose name will appear on the subsequent general
24 election ballot; or

25 (ii) Any continuing political committee; and

26 (c) On the tenth day of each month in which no other reports are
27 required to be filed under this section: PROVIDED, That such report
28 shall only be filed if the committee has received a contribution or
29 made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the
30 total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last
31 such report exceed two hundred dollars.

32 When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, and the campaign
33 fund is closed, and the campaign is concluded in all respects, and in
34 the case of a political committee, the committee has ceased to function
35 and has dissolved, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon
36 submitting a final report, the duties of the treasurer shall cease and
37 there shall be no obligation to make any further reports.

38 The report filed twenty-one days before the election shall report
39 all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the

1 fifth business day before the date of the report. The report filed
2 seven days before the election shall report all contributions received
3 and expenditures made as of the end of the one business day before the
4 date of the report. Reports filed on the tenth day of the month shall
5 report all contributions received and expenditures made from the
6 closing date of the last report filed through the last day of the month
7 preceding the date of the current report.

8 (3) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month
9 preceding the date on which the special or general election is held and
10 ending on the date of that election, each Friday the treasurer shall
11 file with the commission and the appropriate county elections officer
12 a report of each bank deposit made during the previous seven calendar
13 days. The report shall contain the name of each person contributing
14 the funds so deposited and the amount contributed by each person.
15 However, contributions of no more than twenty-five dollars in the
16 aggregate from any one person may be deposited without identifying the
17 contributor. A copy of the report shall be retained by the treasurer
18 for his or her records. In the event of deposits made by a deputy
19 treasurer, the copy shall be forwarded to the treasurer for his or her
20 records. Each report shall be certified as correct by the treasurer or
21 deputy treasurer making the deposit.

22 (4) If a city requires that candidates or committees for city
23 offices file reports with a city agency, the candidate or treasurer so
24 filing need not also file the report with the county auditor or
25 elections officer.

26 (5) The treasurer or candidate shall maintain books of account
27 accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current
28 basis within five business days of receipt or expenditure. During the
29 eight days immediately preceding the date of the election the books of
30 account shall be kept current within one business day. As specified in
31 the committee's statement of organization filed under RCW 42.17.040,
32 the books of account must be open for public inspection as follows:

33 (a) For at least two consecutive hours on the eighth day
34 immediately before the election, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., as
35 specified in the committee's statement of organization filed pursuant
36 to RCW 42.17.040, at the principal headquarters or, if there is no
37 headquarters, at the address of the treasurer or such other place as
38 may be authorized by the commission; and

1 (b) By appointment for inspections to be conducted at the
2 designated place for inspections between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on any
3 other day from the seventh day through the day immediately before the
4 election, other than Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. It is a
5 violation of this chapter for a candidate or political committee to
6 refuse to allow and keep an appointment for an inspection to be
7 conducted during these authorized times and days in the week prior to
8 the election. The appointment must be allowed at an authorized time
9 and day for such inspections that is within twenty-four hours of the
10 time and day that is requested for the inspection.

11 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of
12 account, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the
13 campaign or political committee for not less than five calendar years
14 following the year during which the transaction occurred.

15 ~~((+6))~~ (7) All reports filed pursuant to subsection~~((s))~~ (1) or
16 (2) of this section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and
17 the treasurer.

18 ~~((+7))~~ (8) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section
19 shall be readily available for public inspection for at least two
20 consecutive hours Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays,
21 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., as specified in the committee's
22 statement of organization filed pursuant to RCW 42.17.040, at the
23 principal headquarters or, if there is no headquarters, at the address
24 of the treasurer or such other place as may be authorized by the
25 commission.

26 ~~((+8))~~ (9) After January 1, 2002, a report that is filed with the
27 commission electronically need not also be filed with the county
28 auditor or elections officer.

29 (10) The commission shall adopt administrative rules establishing
30 requirements for filer participation in any system designed and
31 implemented by the commission for the electronic filing of reports.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.17.369 and 1999 c 401 s 11 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) By July 1, 1999, the commission shall ~~((offer every))~~ make
35 available to candidates, public officials, and political committees~~((~~
36 ~~and party organization))~~ that ~~((is))~~ are required to file reports under
37 this chapter ~~((the option of filing))~~ an electronic filing alternative
38 for submitting financial affairs reports, contribution reports, and

1 expenditure reports (~~(electronically)~~), including but not limited to
2 filing by diskette (~~(or via)~~), modem, satellite, or the Internet.

3 (2) By January 1, (~~(2001)~~) 2002, the commission shall (~~(offer all)~~)
4 make available to lobbyists and lobbyists' employers required to file
5 reports under RCW 42.17.150, 42.17.170, 42.17.175, or 42.17.180 (~~(the~~
6 ~~option of filing)~~) an electronic filing alternative for submitting
7 these reports (~~(electronically)~~) including but not limited to filing by
8 diskette (~~(or via)~~), modem, satellite, or the Internet.

9 (3) The commission shall make available to (~~(each)~~) candidates,
10 public officials, political committees, lobbyists, and lobbyists'
11 employers(~~(, and party organization)~~) an electronic copy of the
12 appropriate reporting forms at no charge.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 42.17.3691 and 1999 c 401 s 12 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Beginning January 1, (~~(2001)~~) 2002, each (~~(continuing)~~)
16 candidate or political committee(~~(,)~~) that expended (~~(ten)~~) twenty-five
17 thousand dollars or more in the preceding year or expects to expend
18 (~~(ten)~~) twenty-five thousand dollars or more in expenditures in the
19 current year(~~(,)~~) shall file all contribution reports and expenditure
20 reports required by this chapter (~~(electronically by diskette or via~~
21 ~~modem, satellite, or the Internet)~~) by an electronic alternative
22 provided by the commission under RCW 42.17.369.

23 (2) Beginning January 1, 2004, each candidate or political
24 committee that expended ten thousand dollars or more in the preceding
25 year or expects to expend ten thousand dollars or more in expenditures
26 in the current year shall file all contribution reports and expenditure
27 reports required by this chapter by an electronic alternative provided
28 by the commission under RCW 42.17.369.

29 (3) Failure by a (~~(continuing)~~) candidate or political committee to
30 comply with this section is a violation of this chapter.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 42.17.461 and 1999 c 401 s 2 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) The commission shall establish goals that all reports, copies
34 of reports, or copies of the data or information included in reports,
35 filed under RCW 42.17.040, 42.17.065, 42.17.080, 42.17.100, 42.17.105,
36 42.17.150, 42.17.170, 42.17.175, and 42.17.180, that are:

1 (a) Submitted using the commission's electronic filing system shall
2 be accessible in the commission's office within two business days of
3 the commission's receipt of the report and shall be accessible on the
4 commission's web site within seven business days of the commission's
5 receipt of the report; and

6 (b) Submitted in any format or using any method other than as
7 described in (a) of this subsection, shall be accessible in the
8 commission's office within four business days of the actual physical
9 receipt of the report, and not the technical date of filing as provided
10 under RCW 42.17.420, and shall be accessible on the commission's web
11 site within fourteen business days of the actual physical receipt of
12 the report, and not the technical date of filing as provided under RCW
13 42.17.420, as specified in rule adopted by the commission.

14 (2) On January 1, 2001, or shortly thereafter, the commission shall
15 revise these goals to reflect that all reports, copies of reports, or
16 copies of the data or information included in reports, filed under RCW
17 42.17.040, 42.17.065, 42.17.080, 42.17.100, 42.17.105, 42.17.150,
18 42.17.170, 42.17.175, and 42.17.180, that are:

19 (a) Submitted using the commission's electronic filing system shall
20 be accessible in the commission's office within two business days of
21 the commission's receipt of the report and on the commission's web site
22 within (~~two~~) four business days of the commission's receipt of the
23 report; and

24 (b) Submitted in any format or using any method other than as
25 described in (a) of this subsection, shall be accessible in the
26 commission's office within four business days of the actual physical
27 receipt of the report, and not the technical date of filing as provided
28 under RCW 42.17.420, and on the commission's web site within (~~four~~)
29 seven business days of the actual physical receipt of the report, and
30 not the technical date of filing as provided under RCW 42.17.420, as
31 specified in rule adopted by the commission.

32 (3) On January 1, 2002, or shortly thereafter, the commission shall
33 revise these goals to reflect that all reports, copies of reports, or
34 copies of the data or information included in reports, filed under RCW
35 42.17.040, 42.17.065, 42.17.080, 42.17.100, 42.17.105, 42.17.150,
36 42.17.170, 42.17.175, and 42.17.180, that are:

37 (a) Submitted using the commission's electronic filing system must
38 be accessible in the commission's office and on the commission's web

1 site within two business days of the commission's receipt of the
2 report; and

3 (b) Submitted in any format or using any method other than as
4 described in (a) of this subsection, must be accessible in the
5 commission's office and on the commission's web site within four
6 business days of the actual physical receipt of the report, and not the
7 technical date of filing as provided under RCW 42.17.420, as specified
8 in rule adopted by the commission.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 In addition to its regular telephone number, the commission shall
12 offer political committees and residents of this state the opportunity
13 to contact the commission by a toll-free telephone number.

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