
**State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee**

HB 2499

Brief Description: Expanding disclosure of political advertising to include advertising supporting or opposing ballot measures.

Sponsors: Representatives Billig, Finn, Hunt, Appleton, Hasegawa, Reykdal, Liias, Ormsby, Sells, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, Kagi, Miloscia, Kelley, Hudgins, Roberts and Pollet.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires political advertising supporting or opposing ballot measures sponsored by a political committee to name the "top five" contributors in the advertisement.

Hearing Date: 1/30/12

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

All written political advertising must include the sponsor's name and address. Political advertising that is broadcast must include the sponsor's name. Political advertising undertaken as an independent expenditure by a person or entity other than a party organization, and all electioneering communications must include a statement indicating that the advertisement is not authorized by any candidate, as well as information on who paid for the advertisement. If an advertisement is an independent expenditure or electioneering communication sponsored by a political committee, the top five contributors must be listed. If the sponsor of the advertisement is a political committee established, maintained, or controlled directly, or indirectly through the formation of one or more political committees, by an individual, corporation, union, association, or other entity, the full name of that individual or entity also must be listed in the advertisement.

Independent expenditures pertain to advertisements made in support of, or opposition to, a candidate. Electioneering communications are advertisements that clearly identify a candidate

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by either specifically naming the candidate, or identifying the candidate without using his or her name.

A political committee means any person, except a candidate or an individual dealing with his or her own funds or property, having the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition.

Summary of Bill:

Political advertising costing \$1,000 or more, that supports or opposes a ballot measure, and is sponsored by a political committee, must include a listing of the names of the five persons or entities making the largest contributions in excess of \$700 during the 12-month period before the date of the advertisement.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.