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HOUSE BILL 1474

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representative Moeller

Read first time 01/24/11. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to collecting fees to accommodate electronic filing  
2 and disclosure of campaign finance reports; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 42.17 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 42.17A RCW; providing  
4 an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 All agencies required to report under RCW 42.17.190 must file all  
9 reports required by this chapter electronically over the internet as  
10 provided by the commission under RCW 42.17.369.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17A RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) All agencies required to report under RCW 42.17A.635 must file  
14 all reports required by this chapter electronically over the internet  
15 as provided by the commission under RCW 42.17A.055.

16 (2) Beginning July 1, 2012, all lobbyists and lobbyists' employers  
17 required to file reports under RCW 42.17A.600, 42.17A.615, 42.17A.625,

1 or 42.17A.630 must file all reports required by this chapter  
2 electronically over the internet as provided by the commission under  
3 RCW 42.17A.055.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Lobbyists and lobbyists' employers who are registered or  
7 required to report for calendar year 2011, or who subsequently register  
8 for any part of calendar year 2011, must pay an initial fee to the  
9 commission for the development and implementation of the electronic  
10 filing system under RCW 42.17.369 as follows:

11 (a) Two hundred fifty dollars for each lobbyist whose total  
12 reportable accrued compensation for lobbying, whether from or on behalf  
13 of one or more lobbyists' employers, was ten thousand dollars or more  
14 for the previous calendar year, or is expected to be ten thousand  
15 dollars or more for the current calendar year;

16 (b) Five hundred dollars for each lobbyist employer whose total  
17 reportable accrued expenses and payments for lobbying, including those  
18 through or on behalf of one or more lobbyists, was ten thousand dollars  
19 or more for the previous calendar year, or is expected to be ten  
20 thousand dollars or more for the current calendar year;

21 (c) One hundred fifty dollars for every state agency that has more  
22 than fifty full-time equivalent employees; and

23 (d) One hundred fifty dollars for every local government that  
24 employs a lobbyist.

25 (2) Fees received under this section must be deposited into the  
26 public disclosure electronic filing account under section 6 of this  
27 act. The fees in this section shall be used to establish the software  
28 and hardware needed to establish an electronic filing system for  
29 lobbyists and lobbyist employers.

30 (3) The commission shall adopt rules and procedures to implement  
31 this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17A RCW  
33 to read as follows:

34 (1) Beginning January 1, 2012, the following persons and  
35 individuals must pay an annual fee to the commission:

1 (a) Every political committee must pay a fee of two hundred dollars  
2 to the commission each calendar year that it is required to report  
3 under RCW 42.17A.205, 42.17A.210, 42.17A.220, 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235,  
4 or 42.17A.250;

5 (b) Every lobbyist and lobbyist employer must pay a fee of two  
6 hundred dollars to the commission each calendar year that it is  
7 required to report under RCW 42.17A.600, 42.17A.615, 42.17A.630, or  
8 42.17A.640;

9 (c) Every state agency that has fifty full-time equivalent  
10 employees must pay a fee of one hundred fifty dollars;

11 (d) Every local government that employs a lobbyist must pay a fee  
12 of one hundred fifty dollars;

13 (e) Every individual required to report under RCW 42.17A.700 must  
14 pay a fee of two hundred dollars to the commission for each calendar  
15 year he or she is required to report;

16 (f) No person or individual must pay more than one fee in a  
17 calendar year under this section. Any person may appeal a fee to the  
18 commission.

19 (2) Fees received under this section must be deposited into the  
20 public disclosure electronic filing account under section 7 of this  
21 act. The fees collected under this section must be used for data  
22 development costs and purchase and maintenance of computer hardware and  
23 software to maintain electronic filing of the reports required by this  
24 chapter.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17A RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27 The commission shall adopt rules and procedures to implement  
28 section 4 of this act.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
30 to read as follows:

31 (1) The public disclosure electronic filing account is created in  
32 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from fees paid by  
33 lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and state agencies under section 3 of  
34 this act must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the  
35 account may be used only for costs incurred as a result of the design,  
36 development, implementation, and maintenance of:

1 (a) Software or other applications to accommodate electronic filing  
2 of the reports required by this chapter; and

3 (b) A database and query system compatible with current  
4 architecture, technology, and operating systems that result in readily  
5 available data to the public for review and analysis.

6 (2) Only the executive director of the public disclosure commission  
7 or the executive director's designee may authorize expenditures from  
8 the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
9 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
10 expenditures.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17A RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The public disclosure electronic filing account is created in  
14 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from fees paid by  
15 persons, lobbyists, and lobbyist employers under section 4 of this act  
16 must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may  
17 be used only for costs incurred as a result of the design, development,  
18 implementation, and maintenance of:

19 (a) Computer hardware and software or other applications to  
20 accommodate electronic filing of the reports required by this chapter;  
21 and

22 (b) A database and query system compatible with current  
23 architecture, technology, and operating systems that result in readily  
24 available data to the public for review and analysis.

25 (2) Only the executive director of the public disclosure commission  
26 or the executive director's designee may authorize expenditures from  
27 the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
28 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
29 expenditures.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2, 4, 5, and 7 of this act take  
31 effect January 1, 2012.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1, 3, and 6 of this act expire  
33 January 1, 2012.

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