SSB 5991 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on State Government, Elections & Information Technology

ADOPTED 02/28/2018

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. This act may be known and cited as the democracy is strengthened by casting light on spending in elections act of 2018 or the Washington state DISCLOSE act of 2018.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature finds that the public has the right to know who is contributing to election campaigns in Washington state and that campaign finance disclosure deters corruption, increases public confidence in Washington state elections, and strengthens representative democracy.

The legislature finds that campaign finance disclosure is overwhelmingly supported by the citizens of Washington state as evidenced by the two initiatives that largely established Washington's current campaign finance system. Both passed with over seventy-two percent of the popular vote, as well as winning margins in every county in the state.

The legislature finds that nonprofit organizations are increasingly engaging in campaign activities in Washington state and across the country, including taking a more active role in contributing to candidate and ballot proposition campaigns. In some cases, these activities are occurring without adequate public disclosure due to loopholes in campaign finance regulations.

The legislature finds that many nonprofit organizations wish to use the provisions of current law to anonymously contribute to campaign activity, frustrating the purposes of public disclosure laws.

Therefore, the legislature intends to increase transparency and accountability, deter corruption, and strengthen confidence in the election process by closing campaign finance disclosure loopholes and requiring the disclosure of contributions and expenditures by
nonprofit organizations that participate significantly in Washington state elections.

Sec. 3. RCW 42.17A.005 and 2011 c 145 s 2 and 2011 c 60 s 19 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or with reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

(2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies. "State agency" includes every state office, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency" includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or other local public agency.

(3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee authorized by a candidate, or by the public official against whom recall charges have been filed, to accept contributions or make expenditures on behalf of the candidate or public official.

(4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with the appropriate election officer of that constituency before its circulation for signatures.

(5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial, proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

(6) "Bona fide political party" means:

(a) An organization that has been recognized as a minor political party by the secretary of state;

(b) The governing body of the state organization of a major political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise authority on behalf of the state party; or

(c) The county central committee or legislative district committee of a major political party. There may be only one
legislative district committee for each party in each legislative
district.

(7) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for
election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination
or election when he or she first:
(a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves
space or facilities with intent to promote his or her candidacy for
office;
(b) Announces publicly or files for office;
(c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to
promote his or her candidacy; or
(d) Gives his or her consent to another person to take on behalf
of the individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this
subsection.

(8) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee
organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in
the state senate or state house of representatives.

(9) "Commercial advertiser" means any person who sells the
service of communicating messages or producing printed material for
broadcast or distribution to the general public or segments of the
general public whether through the use of newspapers, magazines,
television and radio stations, billboard companies, direct mail
advertising companies, printing companies, or otherwise.

(10) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW
42.17A.100.

(11) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower
meaning, includes payment in any form for real or personal property
or services of any kind. For the purpose of compliance with RCW
42.17A.710, "compensation" does not include per diem allowances or
other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse a public
official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged in the
official business of the governmental entity.

(12) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee
that is an organization of continuing existence not established in
anticipation of any particular election campaign.

(13)(a) "Contribution" includes:
(i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of
indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds
between political committees, or anything of value, including
personal and professional services for less than full consideration;
(ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a political or incidental committee, the person or persons named on the candidate's or committee's registration form who direct expenditures on behalf of the candidate or committee, or their agents;

(iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination, distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast, written, graphic, or other form of political advertising or electioneering communication prepared by a candidate, a political or incidental committee, or its authorized agent;

(iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished at the event.

(b) "Contribution" does not include:

(i) Standard interest on money deposited in a political or incidental committee's account;

(ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

(iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political or incidental committee that is returned to the contributor within five business days of the date on which it is received by the candidate or political or incidental committee;

(iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the general public, that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business is that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a political or incidental committee;

(v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the members of or contributors to a political party organization or political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

(vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer services," for the purposes of this subsection, means services or labor for which the individual is not compensated by any person;

(vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or window signs displayed on a person's own property or property
occupied by a person. However, a facility used for such political advertising for which a rental charge is normally made must be reported as an in-kind contribution and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the person providing the facility;

(viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

(A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person paying for the services is the regular employer of the person rendering such services; or

(B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering the services and if the services are solely for the purpose of ensuring compliance with state election or public disclosure laws; or

(ix) The performance of ministerial functions by a person on behalf of two or more candidates or political or incidental committees either as volunteer services defined in (b)(vi) of this subsection or for payment by the candidate or political or incidental committee for whom the services are performed as long as:

(A) The person performs solely ministerial functions;

(B) A person who is paid by two or more candidates or political or incidental committees is identified by the candidates and political committees on whose behalf services are performed as part of their respective statements of organization under RCW 42.17A.205; and

(C) The person does not disclose, except as required by law, any information regarding a candidate's or committee's plans, projects, activities, or needs, or regarding a candidate's or committee's contributions or expenditures that is not already publicly available from campaign reports filed with the commission, or otherwise engage in activity that constitutes a contribution under (a)(ii) of this subsection.

A person who performs ministerial functions under this subsection (13)(b)(ix) is not considered an agent of the candidate or committee as long as he or she has no authority to authorize expenditures or make decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee.

(c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed to have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution
must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value
and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

(14) "Depository" means a bank, mutual savings bank, savings and
loan association, or credit union doing business in this state.

(15) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or
special election to any public office, and any person appointed to
fill a vacancy in any such office.

(16) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special
election for public office and any election in which a ballot
proposition is submitted to the voters. An election in which the
qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set
forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of
the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for
purposes of this chapter.

(17) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in
opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any
campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

(18) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day
of January after the date of the last previous general election for
the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after
the next election for the office. In the case of a special election
to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period
beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st
after the special election.

(19)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast,
cable, or satellite television or radio transmission, United States
postal service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

(i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or
judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or
identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;

(ii) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or
otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that
office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking
election; and

(iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more
communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during
the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value of one
thousand dollars or more.

(b) "Electioneering communication" does not include:
(i) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising appearing at least twelve months preceding his or her becoming a candidate;

(ii) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum sponsor, so long as two or more candidates for the same position have been invited to participate in the debate or forum;

(iii) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly scheduled news medium that is:
   (A) Of primary interest to the general public;
   (B) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is that news medium; and
   (C) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political or incidental committee;

(iv) Slate cards and sample ballots;

(v) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming a candidate, or (B) written about a candidate;

(vi) Public service announcements;

(vii) A mailed internal political communication primarily limited to the members of or contributors to a political party organization or political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

(viii) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized committee of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

(ix) Any other communication exempted by the commission through rule consistent with the intent of this chapter.

(20) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution, subscription, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement, whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure. "Expenditure" also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a transfer of anything of value in exchange for goods, services, property, facilities, or anything of value for the purpose of assisting, benefiting, or honoring any public official or candidate, or assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign. For the
purposes of this chapter, agreements to make expenditures, contracts, 
and promises to pay may be reported as estimated obligations until 
actual payment is made. "Expenditure" shall not include the partial 
or complete repayment by a candidate or political or incidental 
committee of the principal of a loan, the receipt of which loan has 
been properly reported.

(21) "Final report" means the report described as a final report 
in RCW 42.17A.235((21)) (8).

(22) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means 
the election that results in the election of a person to a state or 
local office. It does not include a primary.

(23) "Gift" has the definition in RCW 42.52.010.

(24) "Immediate family" includes the spouse or domestic partner, 
dependent children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the 
household. For the purposes of the definition of "intermediary" in 
this section, "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or 
domestic partner, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, 
stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half 
sister of the individual and the spouse or the domestic partner of 
any such person and a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, 
stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half 
sister of the individual's spouse or domestic partner and the spouse 
or the domestic partner of any such person.

(25) "Incidental committee" means any nonprofit organization not 
otherwise defined as a political committee but that may incidentally 
make a contribution or an expenditure in excess of the reporting 
thresholds in section 5 of this act, directly or through a political 
committee. Any nonprofit organization is not an incidental committee 
if it is only remitting payments through the nonprofit organization 
in an aggregated form and the nonprofit organization is not required 
to report those payments in accordance with this chapter.

(26) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of 
an elected office.

((26)) (27) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that 
has each of the following elements:

(a) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for 
office by a person who is not (i) a candidate for that office, (ii) 
an authorized committee of that candidate for that office, (iii) a 
person who has received the candidate's encouragement or approval to 
make the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for
political advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that office, or (iv) a person with whom the candidate has collaborated for the purpose of making the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that office;

(b) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate without using the candidate's name; and

(c) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or opposition to that candidate, has a value of eight hundred dollars or more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under eight hundred dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative value is eight hundred dollars or more.

(27) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless the contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family, or an association to which the individual belongs.

(b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for purposes of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

(c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the fund-raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and customary rate.

(d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

(28) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments, nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are pending approval by the governor.

(29) "Legislative office" means the office of a member of the state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state senate.

(30) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state of Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard, rate, or other legislative enactment of any state agency.
under the state administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.
Neither "lobby" nor "lobbying" includes an association's or other organization's act of communicating with the members of that association or organization.

((31)) (32) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either in his or her own or another's behalf.

((32)) (33) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom he or she is compensated for acting as a lobbyist.

((33)) (34) "Ministerial functions" means an act or duty carried out as part of the duties of an administrative office without exercise of personal judgment or discretion.

((34)) (35) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular election, an entity:

(a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a candidate;
(b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;
(c) Endorses a candidate before contributions are made by a subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that candidate's opponent;
(d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should be supported or opposed before a contribution is made by a subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that candidate's opponent; or
(e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the support of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited to, the amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be given, and what assistance, services or independent expenditures, or electioneering communications, if any, will be made or should be made in support of or opposition to a candidate.

((35)) (36) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture, public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate, committee, political committee, political party, executive committee thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however organized.

((36)) (37) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles,
tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

((37)) (38) "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.

((38)) (39) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means the procedure for nominating a candidate to state or local office under chapter 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in large measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

((39)) (40) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county, city, town, school district, port district, special district, or other state political subdivision elective office.

((40)) (41) "Public record" has the definition in RCW 42.56.010.

((41)) (42) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending thirty days after the recall election.

((42)) (43) (a) "Sponsor" for purposes of an electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising means the person paying for the electioneering communication, independent expenditure, or political advertising. If a person acts as an agent for another or is reimbursed by another for the payment, the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

(b) "Sponsor," for purposes of a political or incidental committee, means any person, except an authorized committee, to whom any of the following applies:

(i) The committee receives eighty percent or more of its contributions either from the person or from the person's members, officers, employees, or shareholders;

(ii) The person collects contributions for the committee by use of payroll deductions or dues from its members, officers, or employees.

((43)) (44) "Sponsored committee" means a committee, other than an authorized committee, that has one or more sponsors.
"State office" means state legislative office or the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner, superintendent of public instruction, state auditor, or state treasurer.

"State official" means a person who holds a state office.

"Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee or candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to the election for which the contributions were received, and that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election. In the case of a continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean those contributions remaining in the possession or control of the committee that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all remaining debts when it makes its final report under RCW 42.17A.255.

"Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals appointed by a candidate or political or incidental committee, pursuant to RCW 42.17A.210, to perform the duties specified in that section.

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

(1)(a) An incidental committee must file a statement of organization with the commission within two weeks after the date the committee first:

(i) Has the expectation of making contributions or expenditures aggregating at least twenty-five thousand dollars in a calendar year in any election campaign, or to a political committee; and

(ii) Is required to disclose a payment received under RCW 42.17A.240(2)(d).

(b) If an incidental committee first meets the criteria requiring filing a statement of organization as specified in (a) of this subsection in the last three weeks before an election, then it must file the statement of organization within three business days.

(2) The statement of organization must include but is not limited to:

(a) The name and address of the committee;
(b) The names and addresses of all related or affiliated political or incidental committees or other persons, and the nature of the relationship or affiliation;

(c) The names, addresses, and titles of its officers; or if it has no officers, the names, addresses, and titles of its responsible leaders and the name of the person designated as the treasurer of the incidental committee;

(d) The name, office sought, and party affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is supporting or opposing if the committee contributes directly to a candidate and, if donating to a political committee, the name and address of that political committee;

(e) The ballot proposition concerned, if any, and whether the committee is in favor of or opposed to such proposition; and

(f) Such other information as the commission may by rule prescribe, in keeping with the policies and purposes of this chapter.

(3) Any material change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization must be reported to the commission within the ten days following the change.

Sec. 5. RCW 42.17A.235 and 2015 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) In addition to the information required under RCW 42.17A.205 and 42.17A.210, on the day the treasurer is designated, each candidate or political committee must file with the commission a report of all contributions received and expenditures made prior to that date, if any. In addition to the information required under RCW 42.17A.205 and 42.17A.210, on the day an incidental committee files a statement of organization with the commission, each incidental committee must file with the commission a report of any election campaign expenditures under RCW 42.17A.240(6), as well as the source of the ten largest cumulative payments of ten thousand dollars or greater it received in the current calendar year from a single person, including any persons tied as the tenth largest source of payments it received, if any.

(2) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee or incidental committee required to file a statement of organization under this chapter shall file with the commission a report containing the information required by RCW 42.17A.240 at the following intervals:
(a) On the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately preceding the date on which the election is held;
(b) On the tenth day of the first month after the election; and
(c) On the tenth day of each month in which no other reports are required to be filed under this section.
(i) For a political committee only if the committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last such report exceed two hundred dollars; or
(ii) For an incidental committee, only if the committee has:
(A) Received a payment that would change the information required under RCW 42.17A.240(2)(d) as included in its last report; or
(B) Made any election campaign expenditure reportable under RCW 42.17A.240(6) since its last report, and the total election campaign expenditures made since the last report exceed two hundred dollars.

The report filed twenty-one days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of one business day before the date of the report. The report filed seven days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of one business day before the date of the report. Reports filed on the tenth day of the month shall report all contributions received and expenditures made from the closing date of the last report filed through the last day of the month preceding the date of the current report.

(3) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month preceding the date of the special election, or for the period beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date of the general election, and ending on the date of that special or general election, each Monday the treasurer for a candidate or a political committee shall file with the commission a report of each bank deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The report shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds and the amount contributed by each person. However, persons who contribute no more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate are not required to be identified in the report. A copy of the report shall be retained by the treasurer for his or her records. In the event of deposits made by a deputy treasurer, the copy shall be forwarded to the treasurer for his or her records. Each report shall be certified as correct by the treasurer or deputy treasurer making the deposit.
(4)(a) The treasurer ((or political committee)) for a candidate or a political committee shall maintain books of account accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five business days of receipt or expenditure. During the eight days immediately preceding the date of the election the books of account shall be kept current within one business day. As specified in the political committee's statement of organization filed under RCW 42.17A.205, the books of account must be open for public inspection by appointment at the designated place for inspections between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on any day from the eighth day immediately before the election through the day immediately before the election, other than Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. It is a violation of this chapter for a candidate or political committee to refuse to allow and keep an appointment for an inspection to be conducted during these authorized times and days. The appointment must be allowed at an authorized time and day for such inspections that is within twenty-four hours of the time and day that is requested for the inspection.

(b) At the time of making the appointment, a person wishing to inspect the books of account must provide the treasurer the name and telephone number of the person wishing to inspect the books of account. The person inspecting the books of account must show photo identification before the inspection begins.

(c) A treasurer may refuse to show the books of account to any person who does not make an appointment or provide the required identification.

(5) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section shall be readily available for public inspection by appointment, pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, at the principal headquarters or, if there is no headquarters, at the address of the treasurer or such other place as may be authorized by the commission.

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

(7) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the treasurer.

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

(9) The commission must adopt rules for the dissolution of incidental committees.

Sec. 6. RCW 42.17A.240 and 2010 c 204 s 409 are each amended to read as follows:

Each report required under RCW 42.17A.235 (1) and (2) must be certified as correct by the treasurer and the candidate and shall disclose the following except that the commission may suspend or modify reporting requirements for contributions received by an incidental committee in cases of manifestly unreasonable hardship under RCW 42.17A.120:

(1) The funds on hand at the beginning of the period;
(2) The name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions during the period, together with the money value and date of each contribution and the aggregate value of all contributions received from each person during the campaign, or in the case of a continuing political committee, the current calendar year, with the following exceptions:
(a) Pledges in the aggregate of less than one hundred dollars from any one person need not be reported;
(b) Income that results from a fund-raising activity conducted in accordance with RCW 42.17A.230 may be reported as one lump sum, with the exception of that portion received from persons whose names and addresses are required to be included in the report required by RCW 42.17A.230;
(c) Contributions of no more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate from any one person during the election campaign may be reported as one lump sum if the treasurer maintains a separate and private list of the name, address, and amount of each such contributor; ((and))
(d) Payments received by an incidental committee from any one person need not be reported unless the person is one of the committee's ten largest sources of payments received, including any persons tied as the tenth largest source of payments received, during the current calendar year, and the value of the cumulative payments received from that person during the current calendar year is ten thousand dollars or greater. For payments to incidental committees
from multiple persons received in aggregated form, any payment of
more than ten thousand dollars from any single person must be
reported, but the aggregated payment itself may not be reported;

(e) Payments from private foundations organized under section
501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code to an incidental committee do
not have to be reported if:

(i) The private foundation is contracting with the incidental
committee for a specific purpose other than election campaign
purposes;

(ii) Use of the funds for election campaign purposes is
explicitly prohibited by contract; and

(iii) Funding from the private foundation represents less than
twenty-five percent of the incidental committee's total budget;

(f) For purposes of this subsection, commentary or analysis on a
ballot measure by an incidental committee is not considered a
contribution if it does not advocate specifically to vote for or
against the ballot measure; and

(g) The money value of contributions of postage ((shall be)) is
the face value of the postage;

(3) Each loan, promissory note, or security instrument to be used
by or for the benefit of the candidate or political committee made by
any person, including the names and addresses of the lender and each
person liable directly, indirectly or contingently and the date and
amount of each such loan, promissory note, or security instrument;

(4) All other contributions not otherwise listed or exempted;

(5) The name and address of each candidate or political committee
to which any transfer of funds was made, including the amounts and
dates of the transfers;

(6) The name and address of each person to whom an expenditure
was made in the aggregate amount of more than fifty dollars during
the period covered by this report, the amount, date, and purpose of
each expenditure, and the total sum of all expenditures. An
incidental committee only must report on expenditures, made and
reportable as contributions as defined in RCW 42.17A.005, to election
campaigns. For purposes of this subsection, commentary or analysis on
a ballot measure by an incidental committee is not considered an
expenditure if it does not advocate specifically to vote for or
against the ballot measure;

(7) The name and address of each person directly compensated for
soliciting or procuring signatures on an initiative or referendum
petition, the amount of the compensation to each person, and the
total expenditures made for this purpose. Such expenditures shall be
reported under this subsection in addition to what is required to be
reported under subsection (6) of this section;
(8) The name and address of any person and the amount owed for
any debt, obligation, note, unpaid loan, or other liability in the
amount of more than two hundred fifty dollars or in the amount of
more than fifty dollars that has been outstanding for over thirty
days;
(9) The surplus or deficit of contributions over expenditures;
(10) The disposition made in accordance with RCW 42.17A.430 of
any surplus funds; and
(11) Any other information required by the commission by rule in
conformance with the policies and purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 7. RCW 42.17A.420 and 2010 c 204 s 604 are each amended to
read as follows:
(1) It is a violation of this chapter for any person to make, or
for any candidate or political committee to accept from any one
person, contributions reportable under RCW 42.17A.240 in the
aggregate exceeding fifty thousand dollars for any campaign for
statewide office or exceeding five thousand dollars for any other
campaign subject to the provisions of this chapter within twenty-one
days of a general election. This subsection does not apply to
contributions made by, or accepted from, a bona fide political party
as defined in this chapter, excluding the county central committee or
legislative district committee. This subsection does not apply to
payments received by an incidental committee.
(2) Contributions governed by this section include, but are not
limited to, contributions made or received indirectly through a third
party or entity whether the contributions are or are not reported to
the commission as earmarked contributions under RCW 42.17A.270.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. The public disclosure commission shall
implement the provisions of this act within existing funds.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. If any provision of this act or its
application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
persons or circumstances is not affected.
NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. This act takes effect January 1, 2019."

Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Excludes from the definition of "incidental committee" nonprofit organizations that only remit nonreportable payments in aggregated form.

(2) Raises the campaign contribution and expenditure threshold that triggers the reporting requirements for incidental committees from $10,000 to $25,000.

(3) Provides that aggregated payments are not reportable as a top ten payment, but any qualifying individual payment that is included in aggregated form is reportable.

(4) Removes the separate reporting requirement for single source payments over $100,000.

(5) Excludes funds received from private foundations from the top ten payments to an incidental committee if the funds are used for noncampaign-related purposes.

(6) Provides that commentary or analysis by an incidental committee that does not specifically advocate for or against a ballot measure is not considered a contribution or a reportable expenditure.

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