

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1819

---

As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations & Security, March 26, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to making an appointment to inspect the books of account of a political committee or a candidate committee.

**Brief Description:** Concerning appointments to inspect the books of account of a political committee or a candidate committee.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Wilson, Griffey, Dent, Van Werven, Caldier, Pike, Shea, Vick, Harmsworth and Condotta.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/11/15, 67-31.

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Security: 3/26/15 [DP].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & SECURITY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Benton, Vice Chair; Pearson, Vice Chair; Liias, Ranking Minority Member; McCoy.

**Staff:** Sam Thompson (786-7413)

**Background:** Washington law requires candidates and political committees to report campaign contributions and expenditures to the state Public Disclosure Commission. Candidates are individuals seeking election to public office. Political committees are persons or entities receiving contributions or making expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition.

Candidates and political committees appoint treasurers to manage funds and maintain books of account reflecting contributions and expenditures. Books of account must be open for public inspection, by appointment, at a designated place starting eight days before an election, excluding weekends and legal holidays. Inspection must be allowed within 24 hours of request.

**Summary of Bill:** When making an appointment to inspect books of account, a requestor must provide the treasurer with the inspector's name and telephone number. The inspector must show photo identification before inspection begins. A treasurer may refuse to show

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

books of account to a person who does not make an appointment or provide the required identification.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Disclosure requirements were originally enacted in 1972, long before the Internet era. At that time, books of account were maintained in paper ledgers. They are now often maintained in computers. Sensitive information, including passwords, are at risk. This bill appropriately addresses security and privacy concerns.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Wilson, prime sponsor.

**Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.