

**ADOPTED**

Senators Hooks of the 14th, Starr of the 44th, Dean of the 31st, Tate of the 38th, Squires of the 5th and others offered the following amendment:

Amend the substitute to SB 31 by inserting after the ";" on line 5 of page 1 the following:  
 "to provide for candidates for the General Assembly who file a declaration of intent to accept campaign contributions to receive and choose to sign a pledge to engage in ethical campaigning;".

By inserting between lines 15 and 16 of page 5 a new section to read as follows:

**"SECTION 3.1.**

Said title is further amended by adding a new article to the end of Chapter 5 to read as follows:

**'ARTICLE 5**

21-5-80.

Any candidate for the General Assembly who files a declaration of intent to accept campaign contributions pursuant to subsection (g) of Code Section 21-5-30 shall be issued a pledge to engage in ethical campaigning by the Secretary of State as set forth in Code Section 21-5-81.

21-5-81.

The text of the pledge shall read as follows:

**PLEDGE TO ENGAGE IN ETHICAL CAMPAIGNING**

Realizing that the principles of morality, honesty, and civility are essential to the integrity of the democratic process, I pledge to conduct a campaign consistent with these principles. I will refrain from campaign practices that in any way detract from the honorable pursuit of elective office. I shall not use or permit the use of character defamation, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his or her personal or family life, nor shall I use or permit on my behalf misleading or untrue advertisements.

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Name of Candidate

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Name of Witness

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Signature  
  
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Date

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Notary public's signature and seal

21-5-82.

Each candidate for the General Assembly who has filed the intention to accept campaign contributions shall acknowledge receipt of the pledge set forth in Code Section 21-5-81 either by returning the pledge with his or her signature which has been witnessed and notarized or by returning a signed affidavit stating that he or she has received the pledge. The pledge shall be in effect for two years from the date of signing unless a candidate writes to the Secretary of State's office and requests that his or her pledge be revoked.

21-5-83.

The Secretary of State's office shall maintain on its website a list of candidates which indicates candidates who have signed the pledge or acknowledged the pledge in accordance with Code Section 21-5-82 or who have neither signed nor acknowledged the pledge.

21-5-84.

A registered voter may initiate a complaint pursuant to Code Section 21-5-7 against a candidate who is running for the General Assembly in his or her district for alleged violations of Code Section 21-5-82. The commission may issue an order after appropriate proceedings as provided for by this chapter and penalize the person who violates Code Section 21-5-82 by making public its conclusion as set forth in paragraph (15) of subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-6."