Senate Bill 144

By: Senators Crotts of the 17th, Smith of the 52nd, Brush of the 24th, Kemp of the 46th, Tolleson of the 18th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Ethics in
Government Act," so as to transfer certain functions relative to the filing of campaign
contribution disclosure reports from the Secretary of State to the State Ethics Commission;
to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
purposes.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

8 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Ethics in Government 9 Act," is amended by striking in their entirety subsections (b) and (g) of Code Section 10 21-5-30, relating to contributions made to a candidate or campaign committee or for recall 11 of a public officer, and inserting in lieu thereof, respectively, the following:

12 "(b) Each candidate shall maintain records and file reports as required by this chapter or 13 shall have a campaign committee for the purposes of maintaining records and filing reports 14 as required by this chapter. Every campaign committee shall have a chairperson and a 15 treasurer, except that the candidate may serve as the chairperson and treasurer. Before a campaign committee accepts contributions, the name and address of the chairperson and 16 17 treasurer shall be filed with the Secretary of State commission. When a candidate has been 18 elected to public office, the registration of that candidate's campaign committee with the Secretary of State commission shall remain in effect so long as the candidate remains in 19 office until and unless: (1) the registration is canceled by the campaign committee or the 20 21 candidate; or (2) a new campaign committee for that candidate is registered with the 22 Secretary of State commission. The same person may serve as chairperson and treasurer. No contributions shall be accepted by or on behalf of the campaign committee at a time 23 24 when there is a vacancy in the office of chairperson or treasurer of the campaign 25 committee."

 $1 \qquad "(g)$ Neither a candidate who is not a public officer nor his or her campaign committee may

2 lawfully accept a campaign contribution until the candidate has filed with the Secretary of

3 State <u>commission</u> or appropriate local filing officer a declaration of intention to accept

4 campaign contributions which shall include the name and address of the candidate and the

5 names and addresses of his or her campaign committee officers, if any."

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SECTION 2.

7 Said chapter is further amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 21-5-34, relating to
8 disclosure reports, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 "21-5-34.

10 (a)(1)(A) The candidate or the chairperson or treasurer of each campaign committee 11 organized to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate for any office except 12 county and municipal offices or the General Assembly and the chairperson or treasurer of every campaign committee designed to bring about the recall of a public officer or 13 to oppose the recall of a public officer or designed to bring about the approval or 14 rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment or state-wide 15 referendum shall sign and file with the Secretary of State commission the required 16 17 campaign contribution disclosure reports. A candidate for membership in the General 18 Assembly or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee shall 19 file such candidate's reports with the Secretary of State commission and a copy thereof 20 with the election superintendent of the county of such candidate's residence.

(B) The chairperson or treasurer of each independent committee as defined in Code
 Section 21-5-3 shall file the required disclosure reports with the Secretary of State
 <u>commission</u>.

24 (2)(A) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures 25 designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in any county or municipal election shall file a 26 campaign contribution disclosure report as prescribed by this chapter; provided, 27 however, that such report shall only be required if such campaign committee has 28 29 received contributions which total more than \$500.00 or if such campaign committee has made expenditures which total more than \$500.00. All advertising pertaining to 30 referendums must identify the principal officer of such campaign committee by listing 31 32 or stating the name and title of the principal officer.

(B) If a campaign committee is required to file a report under subparagraph (A) of this
paragraph, such report shall be filed with the election superintendent of the county in
the case of a county election or with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal

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election. Any such report shall be filed 15 days prior to the date of the election; and a final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held.

3 (3) A candidate for county office or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's
4 campaign committee shall sign and file the required campaign contribution disclosure
5 reports with the election superintendent in the respective county of election.

6 (4) A candidate for municipal office or such candidate's campaign committee shall file
7 the reports with the municipal clerk in the respective municipality of election or, if there
8 is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality.

9 (b)(1) All reports shall list the following:

(A) The amount and date of receipt, along with the name, mailing address, occupation,
and employer of any person making a contribution of \$101.00 or more, including the
purchase of tickets for events such as dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar
fundraising events coordinated for the purpose of raising campaign contributions for
the reporting candidate;

(B) The name and mailing address and occupation or place of employment of any
person to whom an expenditure of \$101.00 or more is made and the amount, date, and
general purpose of such expenditure;

18 (C) When a contribution consists of a loan, advance, or other extension of credit, the 19 report shall also contain the name of the lending institution or party making the advance 20 or extension of credit and the names, mailing addresses, occupations, and places of 21 employment of all persons having any liability for repayment of the loan, advance, or 22 extension of credit; and, if any such persons shall have a fiduciary relationship to the 23 lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit, the report shall 24 specify such relationship;

25 (D) Total contributions received and total expenditures made as follows:

26 (i) Contributions and expenditures shall be reported for the applicable reporting
 27 cycle;

(ii) A reporting cycle shall commence on January 1 of the year in which an election
is to be held for the public office to which a candidate seeks election and shall
conclude:

- 31 (I) At the expiration of the term of office if such candidate is elected and does not
 32 seek reelection or election to some other office;
- 33 (II) On December 31 of the year in which such election was held if such candidate
 34 is unsuccessful; or
- (III) If such candidate is successful and seeks reelection or seeks election to some
 other office the current reporting cycle shall end when the reporting cycle for
 reelection or for some other office begins;

- (iii) The first report of a reporting cycle shall list the net balance on hand brought
 forward from the previous reporting cycle, if any, and the total contributions received
 during the period covered by the report;
- 4 (iv) Subsequent reports shall list the total contributions received during the period
 5 covered by the report and the cumulative total of contributions received during the
 6 reporting cycle;
- 7 (v) The first report of a reporting cycle shall list the total expenditures made during
 8 the period covered by the report;
- 9 (vi) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period 10 covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the reporting 11 cycle, and net balance on hand; and
- (vii) If a public officer seeks reelection to the same public office, the net balance on
 hand at the end of the current reporting cycle shall be carried forward to the first
 report of the applicable new reporting cycle; and
- (E) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee or
 independent committee making a contribution of \$101.00 or more.
- 17 (2) Each report shall be in such form as will allow for the separate identification of a
 18 contribution or contributions which are less than \$101.00 but which become reportable
 19 due to the receipt of an additional contribution or contributions which when combined
 20 with such previously received contribution or contributions cumulatively exceed \$101.00.
- (c) Candidates or campaign committees which accept contributions, make expenditures
 designed to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate, or have filed a
 declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions pursuant to subsection (g) of
 Code Section 21-5-30 shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports in compliance
 with the following schedule:
- 26 (1) In each nonelection year on June 30 and December 31;
- 27 (2) In each year in which the candidate qualifies to run for public office:
- 28 (A) On March 31, June 30, September 30, October 25, and December 31;
- (B) Six days before any run-off primary or election in which the candidate is listed onthe ballot; and
- 31 (C) During the period of time between the last report due prior to the date of any 32 state-wide primary or state-wide election for which the candidate is qualified and the 33 date of such primary or election, all contributions of \$1,000.00 or more must be 34 reported within 48 hours of receipt to the location where the original disclosure report 35 for such candidate or committee was filed and also reported on the next succeeding 36 regularly scheduled campaign contribution disclosure report;

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1 (3) If the candidate is candidate in a special primary or special primary runoff, 15 days

2 prior to the special primary and six days prior to the special primary runoff; and

3 (4) If the candidate is candidate in a special election or special election runoff, 15 days
4 prior to the special election and six days prior to the special election runoff.

5 All persons or entities required to file reports shall have a five-day grace period in filing 6 the required reports, except that the grace period shall be two days for required reports 7 prior to run-off primaries or run-off elections, and no grace period shall apply to 8 contributions required to be reported within 48 hours. The mailing of such reports by 9 United States mail with adequate postage affixed, within the required filing time as determined by the official United States postage date cancellation, shall be prima-facie 10 evidence of filing but reports required to be filed within 48 hours of a contribution must 11 also be reported by facsimile, electronic transmission, or otherwise within those 48 hours 12 to the location where the original disclosure report for such candidate or committee was 13 14 filed. A report or statement required to be filed by this Code section other than a report of contributions required to be reported within 48 hours shall be verified by the oath or 15 affirmation of the person filing such report or statement taken before an officer authorized 16 17 to administer oaths. Each report required in the calendar year of the election shall contain 18 cumulative totals of all contributions which have been received and all expenditures which 19 have been made in support of the campaign in question and which are required, or 20 previously have been required, to be reported.

(d) In the event any candidate covered by this chapter has no opposition in either a primary
or a general election and receives no contribution of \$101.00 or more, such candidate shall
only be required to make the initial and final report as required under this chapter.

24 (e) Any person who makes contributions to, accepts contributions for, or makes 25 expenditures on behalf of candidates, and any independent committee, shall file a registration with the Secretary of State commission in the same manner as is required of 26 27 campaign committees prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures. Such persons, other than independent committees, shall also file campaign contribution 28 disclosure reports in the same places and at the same times as required of the candidates 29 30 they are supporting. The following persons shall be exempt from the foregoing registration and reporting requirements: 31

(1) Individuals making aggregate contributions of \$25,000.00 or less directly to
 candidates or the candidates' campaign committees in one calendar year; and

34 (2) Persons other than individuals making aggregate contributions and expenditures to
35 or on behalf of candidates of \$5,000.00 or less in one calendar year.

(f)(1) Any independent committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures
 for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election or advocates the election or defeat

of any candidate shall file disclosure reports with the Secretary of State commission as follows: (A) on the first day of each of the two calendar months preceding any such election; (B) two weeks prior to the date of such election; and (C) within the two-week period prior to the date of such election the independent committee shall report within 48 hours any contributions or expenditure of more than \$1,000.00. The independent committee shall file a final report prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held and shall file supplemental reports on June 30 and December 31 of each year that

8 such independent committee continues to accept contributions or make expenditures.

9 (2) Reports filed by independent committees shall list the following:

(A) The amount and date of receipt, along with the name, mailing address, occupation,
and employer of any person making a contribution of \$101.00 or more;

(B) The name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of any person to whom an
expenditure or provision of goods or services of the value of \$101.00 or more is made
and the amount, date, and general purpose thereof, including the name of the candidate
or candidates, if any, on behalf of whom, or in support of or in opposition to whom, the
expenditure or provision was made;

17 (C) Total expenditures made as follows:

(i) Expenditures shall be reported for the applicable reporting year;

- (ii) The first report of a reporting year shall list the total expenditures made duringthe period covered by the report; and
- (iii) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period
 covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the reporting
 year, and net balance on hand; and
- (D) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee,
 candidate, campaign committee, or independent committee making a contribution of
 the value of \$101.00 or more.

(3) Whenever any independent committee makes an expenditure for the purpose of
financing any communication intended to affect the outcome of an election, such
communication shall clearly state that it has been financed by such independent
committee.

(g) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed
 to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer shall
 file campaign contribution disclosure reports with the Secretary of State commission as
 follows:

(1) An initial report shall be filed within 15 days after the date when the official recall
petition forms were issued to the sponsors;

37 (2) A second report shall be filed 45 days after the filing of the initial report;

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- (3) A third report shall be filed within 20 days after the election superintendent certifies
 legal sufficiency or insufficiency of a recall petition;
- 3 (4) A final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the year in which the recall
 4 election is held or, in any case where such recall election is not held, a final report shall
 5 be filed prior to December 31 of any year in which such campaign committee accepts
 6 such contributions or makes such expenditures; and
- (5) In the case of state officials or county officials, a copy of each of the reports shall 7 also be filed with the election superintendent in the county of residence of the official 8 9 sought to be recalled. In the case of municipal officials, a copy of the reports shall also be filed with the municipal clerk in the municipality of residence of the official sought 10 to be recalled or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality. 11 12 Each filing officer shall forward a copy of the reporting forms required by this Code section to each candidate or public officer holding elective office required to file such 13 14 report within a reasonable time prior to each filing.
- (h) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed 15 to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of a proposed constitutional 16 17 amendment or a state-wide referendum shall file a campaign contribution disclosure report 18 with the Secretary of State commission 75, 45, and 15 days prior to the date of the election 19 and shall file a final report prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held. 20 (i) In any county in which the county board of elections does not maintain an office open 21 to the public during normal business hours for five days a week, the reports required by this 22 Code section shall be filed in the office of the judge of the probate court of that county.
- (j)(1) Any person elected to a public office who is required to file campaign contribution
 disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall, upon leaving public office with excess
 contributions, be required to file supplemental campaign contribution disclosure reports
 on June 30 and December 31 of each year until such contributions are expended in a
 campaign for elective office or used as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section
 21-5-33.
- 29 (2) Any person who is an unsuccessful candidate in an election and who is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall, upon having 30 excess contributions from such campaign, be required to file a supplemental campaign 31 32 contribution disclosure report no later than December 31 of each year until such contributions are expended in a campaign for elective office or used as provided in 33 subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33. Any unsuccessful candidate in an election who 34 is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article and 35 who receives contributions following such election to retire debts incurred in such 36 37 campaign for elective office shall be required to file a supplemental campaign
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contribution disclosure report no later than December 31 of each year until such unpaid 1 2 expenditures from such campaign are satisfied. 3 (k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, soil and water conservation district supervisors elected pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 2, the 4 5 'Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law,' shall not be required to file campaign 6 contribution disclosure reports under this Code section. 7 (1) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, an additional filing fee of 8 \$25.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$50.00 9 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed; provided, however, a 15 day extension period shall be granted on the final report." 10 11 12 **SECTION 3.** Said chapter is further amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 21-5-34.1, relating 13 14 to filing campaign contribution disclosure reports electronically, and inserting in lieu thereof 15 the following: "21-5-34.1. 16 17 (a) Beginning February 1, 2001, candidates seeking election to constitutional offices, the 18 Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Public Service Commission shall use 19 electronic means to file their campaign contribution disclosure reports with the Secretary 20 of State commission upon having raised or spent a minimum of \$20,000.00 in an election 21 cycle. Under that threshold, electronic filing is permitted and encouraged but not required. 22 (b) Beginning January 1, 2003, candidates seeking election to the General Assembly, 23 superior courts, and the office of district attorney shall use electronic means to file their 24 campaign contribution disclosure reports with the Secretary of State commission, as 25 specified in Code Section 21-5-34, upon having raised or spent a minimum of \$10,000.00 26 in an election cycle, but contributions and expenditures received or made prior to reaching 27 such threshold need not be electronically filed if previously reported, except as cumulative totals. Under that threshold, electronic filing is permitted and encouraged but not required. 28 29 (c) Beginning January 1, 2003, candidates seeking election to county or municipal offices 30 shall use electronic means to file their campaign contribution disclosure reports with the election superintendent of their county or the municipal clerk or chief executive officer of 31 32 their municipality, as specified in Code Section 21-5-34, upon having raised or spent a 33 minimum of \$10,000.00 in an election cycle, but contributions and expenditures received or made prior to reaching such threshold need not be electronically filed if previously 34 reported, except as cumulative totals. Under that threshold, electronic filing is permitted 35 and encouraged but not required. 36

1 (d) Beginning January 1, 2003, political action committees, independent committees, and 2 any persons otherwise required by this article to file campaign contribution disclosure 3 reports shall use electronic means to file such reports with the Secretary of State 4 commission upon having raised or spent \$5,000.00 in a calendar year. Under that threshold, 5 electronic filing is permitted and encouraged but not required. 6 (e) When campaign contribution disclosure reports are filed electronically as provided in 7 subsections (a) through (d) of this Code section, the original report shall be filed at the 8 same location. 9 (f) No funds raised or spent prior to the implementation date of electronic filing shall be 10 counted toward the appropriate threshold. (g) The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this 11 12 Code section." 13 14 **SECTION 4.** Said chapter is further amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 21-5-50, relating to 15 filing by public officers and filing by candidates for public office, and inserting in lieu 16 thereof the following: 17 18 "21-5-50.

19 (a)(1) Except as modified in subsection (c) of this Code section with respect to candidates for state-wide elected public office, each public officer, as defined in 20 21 subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with 22 the Secretary of State commission not before the first day of January nor later than July 23 1 of each year in which such public officer holds office other than the year in which an election is held for such public office, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding 24 25 calendar year; and each person who qualifies as a candidate for election as a public 26 officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with the Secretary of State commission, no later than the fifteenth day 27 following the date of qualifying as a candidate, a financial disclosure statement for the 28 29 preceding calendar year.

(2) Each public officer, as defined in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (15) of Code Section
21-5-3, shall file with the election superintendent of the county of election of such public
officer, not before the first day of January nor later than July 1 of each year in which such
public officer holds office other than the year in which an election is held for such public
office, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year. Each person who
qualifies as a candidate for election as a public officer, as defined in subparagraph (F) of
paragraph (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with the election superintendent of the

county of election, no later than the fifteenth day following the date of qualifying as a
 candidate, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year.

3 (3) Each public officer, as defined in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (15) of Code 4 Section 21-5-3, shall file with the municipal clerk of the municipality of election or, if 5 there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of such municipality, not before the first 6 day of January nor later than July 1 of each year in which such public officer holds office 7 other than the year in which an election is held for such public office, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year. Each person who qualifies as a 8 9 candidate for election as a public officer, as defined in subparagraph (G) of paragraph 10 (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with the municipal clerk of the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of such municipality, no 11 12 later than the fifteenth day following the date of qualifying as a candidate, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year. 13

(4) The filing officer shall review each financial disclosure statement to determine thatsuch statement is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

- (5) A public officer shall not, however, be required to file such a financial disclosure
 statement for the preceding calendar year in a year in which there occurs qualifying for
 election to succeed such public officer, if such public officer does not qualify for
 nomination for election to succeed himself or herself or for election to any other public
 office subject to this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, a public officer shall not
 be deemed to hold office in a year in which the public officer holds office for less than
 15 days.
- (b) A financial disclosure statement shall be in the form specified by the commission andshall identify:
- (1) Each monetary fee or honorarium of \$101.00 or less which is accepted by a public
 officer from speaking engagements, participation in seminars, discussion panels, or other
 activities which directly relate to the official duties of the public officer or the office of
 the public officer, with a statement identifying the fee or honorarium accepted and the
 person from whom it was accepted;

30 (2) All fiduciary positions held by the candidate for public office or the public officer,
31 with a statement of the title of each such position, the name and address of the business
32 entity, and the principal activity of the business entity;

- (3) The name, address, and principal activity of any business entity and the office held
 by and the duties of the candidate for public office or public officer within such business
 entity as of December 31 of the covered year in which such candidate or officer has a
 direct ownership interest which interest:
- 37 (A) Is more than 10 percent of the total interests in such business; or

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(B) Has a net fair market value of more than \$20,000.00; 2 (4) Each tract of real property in which the candidate for public office or public officer 3 has a direct ownership interest as of December 31 of the covered year when that interest 4 has a net fair market value in excess of \$20,000.00. As used in this paragraph, the term 5 'net fair market' value means the appraised value of the property for ad valorem tax purposes less any indebtedness thereon. The disclosure shall contain the county and state 6 7 and general location therein where the property is located;

8 (5) All annual payments in excess of \$20,000.00 received by the public officer or any 9 business entity identified in paragraph (3) of this subsection from the state, any agency, 10 department, commission, or authority created by the state, and authorized and exempted from disclosure under Code Section 45-10-25, and the agency, department, commission, 11 12 or authority making the payments, and the general nature of the consideration rendered 13 for the source of the payments; and

(6) No form prescribed by the commission shall require more information or specify 14 15 more than provided in the several paragraphs of this Code section with respect to what 16 is required to be disclosed.

(c)(1) Each person who qualifies with a political party as a candidate for party 17 18 nomination to a public office elected state wide (including an incumbent public officer 19 elected state wide qualifying to succeed himself) shall file with the Secretary of State 20 commission, not later than seven days after so qualifying, a financial disclosure 21 statement. Each person who qualifies as a candidate for election to a public office elected 22 state wide through a nomination petition or convention shall likewise file a financial 23 disclosure statement not later than seven days after filing his notice of candidacy. Such 24 financial disclosure statement shall comply with the requirements of subsections (a) and 25 (b) of this Code section and shall in addition identify, for the preceding five calendar 26 years:

(A) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar 27 year in which the candidate (whether for himself or on behalf of any business) or any 28 29 business in which such candidate or any member of his family has a substantial interest 30 or is an officer of such business has transacted business with the government of the 31 State of Georgia, the government of any political subdivision of the State of Georgia, 32 or any agency of any such government; and

(B) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar 33 34 year in which the candidate or any business in which such candidate or any member of 35 his family has a substantial interest or is an officer of such business received any income of any nature from any person who was at the time of such receipt of income 36

represented by a lobbyist registered with the commission pursuant to Article 4 of this
 chapter.
 (2) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall

include an itemized list of the transactions required to be reported, including the date of, 4 5 dollar amount of, and parties to each such transaction. However, with respect to any 6 transactions of a privileged nature only the total amount of such transactions shall be 7 required to be reported, and names, dates, amounts of individual transactions, and other identifying data may be omitted; and for this purpose 'transactions of a privileged nature' 8 9 shall include transactions between attorney and client, transactions between psychiatrist 10 and patient, transactions between physician and patient, and any other transactions which are by law of a similar privileged and confidential nature. 11

(3) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
be accompanied by a financial statement of the candidate's financial affairs for the
calendar year prior to the year in which the election is held and the first quarter of the
calendar year in which the election is held.

- 16 (4)(A) As used in this subsection, the term:
- (i) 'Agency' means any agency, authority, department, board, bureau, commission,
 committee, office, or instrumentality of the State of Georgia or any political
 subdivision of the State of Georgia.
- (ii) 'Financial statement' means a statement of a candidate's financial affairs in a form
 substantially equivalent to the short form financial statement required for bank
 directors under the rules of the Department of Banking and Finance.
- 23 (iii) 'Substantial interest' means the direct or indirect ownership of 10 percent or more
- 24 of the assets or stock of any business.
- 25 (B) As used in this subsection, the term:
- 26 (i) 'Member of the family' includes the candidate's spouse and dependent children;
 27 and
- (ii) 'Person' and 'transact business' shall have the meanings specified in Code Section
 45-10-20.

30 (5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, if, due to a special election
 31 or otherwise, a person does not qualify as a candidate for nomination or election to public
 32 office until after the filing date otherwise applicable, such person shall make the filings

required by this subsection within seven days after so qualifying."

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SECTION 5.

- 2 This Act shall become effective on January 10, 2005, and any report required to be filed by
- 3 Chapter 5 of Title 21 on or after January 10, 2005, shall be filed with the State Ethics
- 4 Commission.

SECTION 6.

6 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.