

Senate Bill 168

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Johnson of the 1st, Heath of the 31st, Hooks of the 14th,
Jackson of the 2nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to campaign contributions, so as to change certain provisions regarding the filing of
3 campaign disclosure reports by candidates for county office; to provide for related matters;
4 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 campaign contributions, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code
9 Section 21-5-34, relating to disclosure reports, as follows:

10 "(3) A candidate for county office or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's
11 campaign committee shall sign and file the required campaign contribution disclosure
12 reports with the ~~election superintendent in the respective county of election~~ commission
13 in accordance with Code Section 21-5-34.1."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 21-5-34.1, relating to filing
16 campaign contribution disclosure reports electronically, as follows:

17 "21-5-34.1.

18 (a) Candidates seeking election to constitutional offices, the Supreme Court, the Court of
19 Appeals, and the Public Service Commission shall use electronic means to file their
20 campaign contribution disclosure reports with the commission upon having raised or spent
21 a minimum of \$20,000.00 in an election cycle. Under that threshold, electronic filing is
22 permitted and encouraged but not required.

23 (b) Candidates seeking election to the General Assembly, superior courts, and the office
24 of district attorney shall use electronic means to file their campaign contribution disclosure
25 reports with the commission, as specified in Code Section 21-5-34, upon having raised or

26 spent a minimum of \$10,000.00 in an election cycle, but contributions and expenditures
 27 received or made prior to reaching such threshold need not be electronically filed if
 28 previously reported, except as cumulative totals. Under that threshold, electronic filing is
 29 permitted and encouraged but not required.

30 (c) Candidates seeking election to ~~county~~ or municipal offices shall use electronic means
 31 to file their campaign contribution disclosure reports with ~~the election superintendent of~~
 32 ~~their county~~ or the municipal clerk or chief executive officer of their municipality, as
 33 specified in Code Section 21-5-34, upon having raised or spent a minimum of \$10,000.00
 34 in an election cycle, but contributions and expenditures received or made prior to reaching
 35 such threshold need not be electronically filed if previously reported, except as cumulative
 36 totals. Under that threshold, electronic filing is permitted and encouraged but not required.

37 (d) Candidates seeking election to county offices shall use electronic means to file their
 38 campaign contribution disclosure reports with the commission, as specified in Code
 39 Section 21-5-34, upon having raised or spent a minimum of \$10,000.00 in an election
 40 cycle, but contributions and expenditures received or made prior to reaching such threshold
 41 need not be electronically filed if previously reported, except as cumulative totals. Under
 42 that threshold, electronic filing is permitted and encouraged but not required.

43 (e) Political action committees, independent committees, and any persons otherwise
 44 required by this article to file campaign contribution disclosure reports shall use electronic
 45 means to file such reports with the commission upon having raised or spent a minimum of
 46 \$5,000.00 in a calendar year. Under that threshold, electronic filing is permitted and
 47 encouraged but not required.

48 ~~(e)~~(f) When campaign contribution disclosure reports are filed electronically as provided
 49 in subsections ~~(a) through (d)~~ (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this Code section, the filer shall only
 50 submit to the commission a notarized affidavit certifying that the electronic filing is correct
 51 by United States mail, with adequate postage affixed. Such notarized affidavit shall not be
 52 required when campaign contribution disclosure reports are filed electronically as provided
 53 in subsection (d) of this Code section.

54 ~~(f)~~(g) When campaign contribution disclosure reports are filed electronically; as provided
 55 in subsections (a) through ~~(d)~~ (e) of this Code section, no paper copy of the report shall be
 56 filed."

57 SECTION 3.

58 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 59 without such approval.

60

SECTION 4.

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