

Senate Bill 523

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Butler of the 55th, Strickland of the 17th, Parent of the 42nd,
Dolezal of the 27th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics
2 in government, so as to provide that child care and other caregiving services associated with
3 a candidate's campaign constitute ordinary and necessary expenses of a campaign; to provide
4 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in
9 government, is amended in Code Section 21-5-3, relating to definitions, by revising
10 paragraph (18) and adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

11 "(4.1) 'Caregiving services' means direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or
12 other person with a disability or medical condition for whom a candidate has direct
13 caregiving responsibility."

14 "(18) 'Ordinary and necessary expenses' shall include, but shall not be limited to,
15 expenditures made during the reporting period for qualifying fees, office costs and rent,
16 lodging, equipment, travel, advertising, postage, staff salaries, consultants, files storage,

17 polling, special events, volunteers, reimbursements to volunteers, repayment of any loans
18 received except as restricted under subsection (i) of Code Section 21-5-41, contributions to
19 nonprofit organizations, flowers for special occasions, which shall include, but are not
20 limited to, birthdays and funerals, attorney fees connected to and in the furtherance of the
21 campaign, caregiving services in direct connection with the candidate's campaign activity,
22 and all other expenditures contemplated in Code Section 21-5-33."

23 **SECTION 2.**

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

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.