

## Highlights of Changes - 2015 General Session

### *Noteworthy Statute Changes*

- Anonymous contributions over \$50 are prohibited (HB 91).
- The fine imposed against a candidate that fails to timely report a contribution is changed from 15% to 10% if paid within 30 days (20% if paid after 30 days) (HB 91).
- The minimum \$50 fine imposed against a candidate that fails to timely report a contribution is removed (HB 248).
- The definition of PIC is changed (HB 107).
- The reporting threshold for PIC expenditures is changed from \$50 to \$750 (HB 107).
- The August 31 reporting deadline is changed to September 30 (HB 120).
- Judicial retention elections are included in the definition of “political purposes” when it relates to campaign and financial reporting (HB 136).
- The deadline to pay fines to the Lt. Governor’s Office is 30 days (SB 137).
- A corporation is not required to report an expenditure made to a reporting entity that the reporting entity is required to include in a financial statement (SB 207).

### *Noteworthy Statute Changes - Lobbyists*

- “Event,” “tour,” and “meeting” are defined and the reporting requirements are described (SB 31).
- “Expenditure” does not include plaques, commendations, or awards that are presented in public and have the name of the individual receiving the item permanently marked on the item (SB 32).
- A lobbyist who has not made an expenditure during a quarterly reporting period is not required to file a financial disclosure report for that quarter. All lobbyists must still file a Year End report on January 10, regardless of whether or not they are required to file quarterly reports (SB 207).

### *Campaign Finance Legislation Highlights*

#### **HB32 - Local Government Disclosure and Campaign Finance Amendments -- Draxler, J.**

- Adds definitions to municipal campaign finance code including: candidate, contribution and expenditure.
- Authorizes a municipality to adopt more stringent campaign finance disclosure requirements, deadlines, and definitions than what is already codified in law.
- Prohibits a municipal candidate from making a personal use expenditure (e.g., clothing, car, sporting event tickets, vacation) and authorizes a municipality to adopt an ordinance to further define personal use expenditure violations and enforce prohibitions.

#### **HB91 (Sub. 4) - Campaign Contributions Amendments -- Powell, K.**

- Prohibits anonymous contributions that are cash and over \$50.
- Requires a candidate who receives an anonymous contribution that is cash and over \$50 to donate the money to:
  - State or political subdivision for deposit into its general fund, or
  - 501(c)(3) organizations.
- Modifies the fine imposed against certain state reporting entities that fail to report a contribution; changes fine from 15% to 10% (20% if after 60 days).

#### **HB107 (Sub. 2) - Political Issues Committee Amendments -- Greene, B.**

- Redefines the definition of PICs to exempt a group of individuals who:
  - Associate together for the purpose of challenging a single ballot proposition, ordinance, or other governmental action.

- Have a common liberty, property, or financial interest that is directly impacted by the ballot proposition, ordinance, or other governmental action.
- Do not associate via a legal entity.
- Do not receive funds from a person other than individual within the group.
- Do not expend more than \$5,000.
- PICs must file financial disclosure reports after expending more than \$750 in a calendar year – instead of \$50.

**HB120 (Sub. 1) - Modifications to Election Law -- Hall, C.**

- Changes the date on which certain filing entities are required to file financial disclosures from August 31 to September 30.

**HB136 - Campaign Disclosures for Judicial Retention Elections -- King, Brad**

- Amends the definition of "political purposes" as it relates to campaign and financial reporting requirements to include an act done with the intent of/to influence a judicial retention election.

**HB234 - Lobbyist Disclosure and Regulation Act Modifications -- McKell, M.**

- Exempts publications valued under \$30 from the definition of expenditure.
- Describes how public officials may dispose of publications that constitute an expenditure: the public official may return the publication to the lobbyist, principal, or government officer, donate the publication to a charity or a government entity, or destroy the publication.

**HB248 (Sub. 2) - Campaign Finance Reporting Revisions -- Hall, C.**

- Removes the minimum \$50 fine imposed against certain state reporting entities that fail to report a contribution.

**SB137 (Sub. 3) - Campaign and Financial Reporting Requirements Revisions -- Weiler, T.**

- Amends the definition of "political purposes."
- Establishes a deadline to pay fines from the Lt. Governor's office (within 30 days after the day on which the fine is imposed).
- Prohibits a person from using their public entity's email for political purpose or to advocate for or against a ballot proposition.
  - Establishes a fine of up to \$250 for a first violation and \$1,000 multiplied by the number of violations committed by the person for each subsequent violation.

**SB207 (Sub. 6) - Political Activity Amendments -- Bramble, C.**

- Modifies reporting requirements so a corporation is not required to report an expenditure made to a reporting entity that the reporting entity is required to include in a financial statement.

***Campaign Finance Legislation Highlights - Lobbyists***

**SB31 (Sub. 1) - Lobbyist Disclosure and Regulation Act Amendments -- Weiler, T.**

- Makes exceptions to the definition of a lobbyist, adding "including a principal" to those whom the lobbyist definition does not include.
- Defines and clarifies the differences between events, tours, and meetings, and describes the reporting requirements for those.
- Provides that the Lt. Governor shall deposit the Lobbyist Disclosure and Regulation Act license fee into the General Fund as a dedicated credit to be used by the Lt. Governor to pay the cost of administering the license program.

**SB32 (Sub. 1) - Amendments to Limitations and Reporting for Food and Awards -- Mayne, K.**

- Amends Lobbyist Disclosure and Regulation Act to provide that an expenditure does not include plaques, commendations, or awards that are presented in public and have the name of the individual receiving the item inscribed, etched, printed, or otherwise permanently marked on the item.
- Amends limitations and reporting requirements relating to food and beverages.

**SB207 (Sub. 6) - Political Activity Amendments -- Bramble, C.**

- A lobbyist who has not made an expenditure during a quarterly reporting period is not required to file a financial disclosure report for that quarter. All lobbyists must still file a Year End report on January 10, regardless of whether or not they are required to file quarterly reports (SB 207).

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