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Overview

This bill makes a number of technical changes to various campaign finance and public disclosure laws, including the addition of nonpartisan fiscal analysts employed by the legislature to the definition of “public official,” elimination of a grace period for late filing of certain reports with the board, and modification of the name and structure of the campaign public subsidy accounts.

Section

Article 1: Technical Changes

- 1 **Public official.** Expands the definition of “public official” to include nonpartisan fiscal analysts employed by the House and Senate.
- 2 **Changes and corrections.** Provides a technical modification to an existing gross misdemeanor penalty related to willful failure to report a material change or correction to a report or statement previously submitted to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.
- 3 **Late filing.** Increases the late filing fee, and eliminates a grace period for timely filing, for reports required to be filed by a lobbyist or lobbyist principal.
- 4 **Earmarking contributions prohibited.** Provides a technical modification to an existing gross misdemeanor penalty related to knowingly accepting an earmarked contribution.
- 5 **Period of report.** Modifies the period that must be included on the campaign finance report required to be filed on January 31. The report must cover the period from January 1 to

Section

December 31 of the reporting year.

- 6 Failure to file; penalty.** Eliminates a grace period for timely filing of a campaign finance report.
- 7 Contributions during legislative session.** Prohibits associations not registered with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board from making contributions to candidates, a candidate's principal campaign committee, or a party unit of the legislature during a regular legislative session. A prohibition on contributions by dissolving principal campaign committees is eliminated.
- 8 Civil penalty.** Provides conforming references to the change made in section 7 of the bill related to contributions during the legislative session, and provides that the board is permitted, rather than required, to forward a matter to the county attorney if there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred.
- 9 State elections campaign account.** Renames the current "state elections campaign fund" the "state elections campaign account," and establishes a new account for special elections, known as the "state special elections campaign account."
- 10 Distribution of general account.** Provides a technical modification to the time that the amount of available funding in the state campaign fund general amount is certified, due to the shift in the date of the state primary.
- This section also eliminates procedures and requirements related to repayment of public subsidy money unspent by a candidate.
- 11 Special election subsidy.** Provides a technical modification of the procedure for appropriating money to be used for public subsidies to candidates in a special election.
- 12 Refund receipt forms; penalty.** Provides a technical modification to an existing misdemeanor penalty for willfully issuing a political contribution refund receipt form, in the event the candidate did not sign a spending limit agreement. The modification includes expansion of the penalty to cover issuance of these forms by a candidate's treasurer.

Article 2: Conforming Changes

- 1-8 Terminology changes.** Updates various references in statute to the state elections campaign fund, to reflect the renaming of the fund the "state elections campaign account."