

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 205

By: Senator Hester  
By: Representative A. Davis

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ETHICS AND  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO AMEND THE TIMES FOR CERTAIN  
CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS; TO AMEND  
PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT  
1 OF 1996; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ETHICS AND  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO AMEND THE TIMES FOR  
CERTAIN CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE  
REPORTS; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF  
INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990 AND INITIATED ACT  
1 OF 1996.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-203(b)(1), concerning contribution limits and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person ~~permitted to make a contribution under subdivisions (a)(1)(A)(i)-(vi) of this section~~ to make a contribution to a candidate for any public office or to any person acting on the candidate's behalf, which in the aggregate exceeds two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700) per election.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-207(a)(1)(B), concerning monthly



reports for candidates for state or district office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(B) Beginning with the month of ~~November preceding~~ January of a calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on any ballot for election, a monthly report of all contributions received and expenditures made during that month. However, for any month in which certain days of that month are included in a preelection report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section, no monthly report for that month shall be due. In the case of a primary or runoff election, those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be carried forward and included in the next monthly report. The monthly report shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of each month, except that the final report, covering the month during which an election is held, shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the last election is held at which the candidate seeks nomination and after the end of the month in which the general election is held. With respect to a special election, the candidate shall file monthly reports under this section beginning with the month in which the special election candidate's total campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-207(a)(1)(D), concerning final reports for candidates for state or district office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1990 and Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(D) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made which have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a)(2), concerning final reports for

candidates for school district, township, or municipal office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(2) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a)(2), concerning final reports for candidates for county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(2) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-6-224, resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

7-6-224. Authority of local jurisdictions.

(a) Municipalities, counties, and townships ~~shall have the authority to~~ may establish reasonable limitations on:

- (1) Time periods that candidates for local office shall be allowed to solicit contributions;
- (2) Limits on contributions to local candidates at amounts lower than those set by state law; and
- (3) Voluntary campaign expenditure limits for candidates seeking

election to their respective governing bodies.

(b) Enforcement of any limitation established under subsection (a) of this section is the responsibility of the municipality, county, or township establishing the limitation.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-6-226(c)(1)(A), concerning quarterly reports filed by county political party committees, is amended to read as follows:

(A) The total amount of contributions received and the total amount of contributions made during the ~~filing~~ reporting period and the cumulative amount of those totals;

**APPROVED: 2/28/19**