

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1707

By: Representatives Hawk, Underwood

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES; TO REQUIRE A CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TO FILE REPORTS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE; TO REQUIRE A CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY OFFICE TO FILE REPORTS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE; TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE CERTAIN CANDIDATES TO FILE REPORTS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE; TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(c), concerning filing of reports of contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Filing of Reports.

(1)(A) The reports required by this section shall be filed with the ~~county clerk in the county in which the election is held~~ Secretary of State under subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

(B) Reports shall be filed on the appropriate forms furnished by the Secretary of State.



(2)(A)(i) The Secretary of State shall establish a filing system for reports filed under this section.

(ii) The reports shall be kept for eight (8) years from the date of filing, catalogued by candidate in chronological order, and made available for public inspection.

(iii) For eight (8) years after the reports are filed under this section, the Secretary of State is the official custodian of those records.

(B)(i) After the eight-year period, the Secretary of State shall turn the reports over to the Arkansas State Archives for maintenance and continued public inspection.

(ii) After the eight-year period, the Arkansas State Archives is the official custodian of the records of the reports filed under this section.

(C)(i) The campaign contribution and expenditure reports filed with the Secretary of State under this section shall be filed in electronic form through the official website of the Secretary of State.

(ii) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall approve the format used by the Secretary of State for the filing of campaign contribution and expenditure reports in electronic form under subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section to ensure that all required information is requested.

(iii) The official website of the Secretary of State shall allow for searches of campaign contribution and expenditure report information filed in electronic form under subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section.

(iv) The electronic format used for the filing of campaign contribution and expenditure reports on the official website of the Secretary of State shall aggregate total campaign contributions by a contributor to determine if they collectively reach the limitation for lawful campaign contributions under this subchapter.

(v) The Secretary of State shall not accept paper filings under this subdivision (c)(2).

(3) The Secretary of State shall furnish to the commission, no later than thirty (30) days after each filing deadline under this section, a report listing the:

(A) Names of all candidates who have filed for office;
(B) Type of report filed by each candidate; and
(C) Date the report was received by the Secretary of
State.

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

(c) Filing of Reports.

(1)(A) The reports required by this section shall be filed with the ~~county clerk in the county in which the election is held~~ Secretary of State under subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

(B) Reports shall be filed on the appropriate forms furnished by the Secretary of State.

(2)(A)(i) The Secretary of State shall establish a filing system for reports filed under this section.

(ii) The reports shall be kept for eight (8) years from the date of filing, catalogued by candidate in chronological order, and made available for public inspection.

(iii) For eight (8) years after the reports are filed under this section, the Secretary of State is the official custodian of those records.

(B)(i) After the eight-year period, the Secretary of State shall turn the reports over to the Arkansas State Archives for maintenance and continued public inspection.

(ii) After the eight-year period, the Arkansas State Archives is the official custodian of the records of the reports filed under this section.

(C)(i) The campaign contribution and expenditure reports filed with the Secretary of State under this section shall be filed in electronic form through the official website of the Secretary of State.

(ii) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall approve the format used by the Secretary of State for the filing of campaign contribution and expenditure reports in electronic form under subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section to ensure that all required information is requested.

(iii) The official website of the Secretary of State shall allow for searches of campaign contribution and expenditure report information filed in electronic form under subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section.

(iv) The electronic format used for the filing of campaign contribution and expenditure reports on the official website of the Secretary of State shall aggregate total campaign contributions by a contributor to determine if they collectively reach the limitation for lawful campaign contributions under this subchapter.

(v) The Secretary of State shall not accept paper filings under this subdivision (c)(2).

(3) The Secretary of State shall furnish to the commission, no later than thirty (30) days after each filing deadline under this section, a report listing the:

- (A) Names of all candidates who have filed for office;
- (B) Type of report filed by each candidate; and
- (C) Date the report was received by the Secretary of

State.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that transparency in election contributions impacts the public peace, health, and safety as it ensures that elections are conducted fairly and properly; that this act increases access to reports of contributions for candidates for school district, township, municipal, and county offices; and that this act should become effective at the earliest opportunity to preserve the public peace, health, and safety by providing increased transparency in election contributions to ensure that elections occur in a fair and appropriate manner. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
- (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 4/10/25