

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 918

Short Title: Electioneering and IE Reporting Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lewis, D. Ross, and Luebke (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Elections.

April 15, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALTER THE REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR INDEPENDENT  
3 EXPENDITURES AND ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS TO PROVIDE  
4 INFORMATION IN A TIMELY FASHION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-278.12 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 163-278.12. Special reporting of contributions and independent expenditures.**

8 (a) Subject to G.S. 163-278.39 and G.S. 163-278.14, individuals and other entities not  
9 otherwise prohibited from doing so may make independent expenditures. In the event an  
10 individual, person, or other entity incurs expenses in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300.00)  
11 for making independent expenditures but is not otherwise required to report them makes  
12 independent expenditures in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), them, that individual,  
13 person, or entity shall file a statement of such independent expenditure with the appropriate  
14 board of elections in the manner prescribed by the State Board of ~~Elections~~Elections  
15 containing all of the following:

- 16 (1) The identification of the individual, person, or other entity incurring the  
17 expense, of any other entity sharing or exercising direction or control over  
18 the activities of that entity, and of the custodian of the books and accounts of  
19 the individual, person, or other entity incurring the expense.  
20 (2) The principal place of business of the person or entity incurring the expense,  
21 if not an individual.  
22 (3) The amount and date of each expense incurred during the period covered by  
23 the report and the identification of the individual, person, or other entity to  
24 whom the expense was incurred.  
25 (4) The elections to which the independent expenditures pertain and the names  
26 of the candidates supported or opposed by the independent expenditures.  
27 (5) The names and addresses of all entities that donated, to further an  
28 independent expenditure or independent expenditures, funds or anything of  
29 value whatsoever in an aggregate amount of more than one hundred dollars  
30 (\$100.00) during the reporting period, and the date and amount of the  
31 donation received. If the donor is an individual, the report shall also contain  
32 the principal occupation of the donor. The "principal occupation of the  
33 donor" shall mean the same as the "principal occupation of the contributor"  
34 in G.S. 163-278.11.



1       ~~(b) Any person or entity other than an individual that is permitted to make contributions~~  
2 ~~but is not otherwise required to report them shall report each contribution in excess of one~~  
3 ~~hundred dollars (\$100.00) with the appropriate board of elections in the manner prescribed by~~  
4 ~~the State Board of Elections.~~

5       ~~(c) In assuring compliance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the State Board~~  
6 ~~of Elections shall require the identification of each person or entity making a donation of more~~  
7 ~~than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the entity filing the report if the donation was made to~~  
8 ~~further the reported independent expenditure or contribution. If the donor is an individual, the~~  
9 ~~statement shall also contain the principal occupation of the donor. The "principal occupation of~~  
10 ~~the donor" shall mean the same as the "principal occupation of the contributor" in~~  
11 ~~G.S. 163-278.11.~~

12       ~~(d) Contributions or~~The initial report of independent expenditures required to be  
13 reported under this section shall be reported at the earliest of the following dates:

14           ~~(1) within 30~~Within 10 days after they of incurring expenses that exceed one  
15 three hundred dollars (\$100.00)(300.00) to further independent  
16 expenditures.

17           ~~(2) Within 48 hours of incurring expenses that exceed three hundred dollars~~  
18 ~~(\$300.00) to further initial independent expenditures that occur during the ~~or~~~~  
19 ~~4030 days before an election the ~~contributions or~~ independent expenditures~~  
20 ~~affect, whichever occurs earlier.affect.~~

21           ~~(3) Within 48 hours of incurring expenses or receiving donations that exceed~~  
22 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to further independent expenditures.

23       ~~(d1) An additional report shall be filed within 48 hours of the individual, person, or other~~  
24 ~~entity incurring expenses or receiving donations to further independent expenditures that~~  
25 ~~aggregate to more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) during a period not covered by a~~  
26 ~~previous report. A final report of donations and expenditures required to be reported but not~~  
27 ~~included in a previous report shall be filed by 30 days after the election the independent~~  
28 ~~expenditures affect.~~

29       ~~(d2) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (b) and (c), an individual, person,~~  
30 ~~or other entity required to report under this section to a county board of elections shall file an~~  
31 ~~additional report within 48 hours of incurring expenses to further independent expenditures that~~  
32 ~~aggregate to more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) during a period not covered by a previous~~  
33 ~~report in the 30 days before the election.~~

34       ~~(e) The State Board of Elections shall require subsequent reporting of independent~~  
35 ~~expenditures according to the same schedule required of political committees under~~  
36 ~~G.S. 163-278.9(a). An individual or person that makes an independent expenditure shall~~  
37 ~~disclose by report to the State Board of Elections within 48 hours of incurring an expense of~~  
38 ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or more or receiving a donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~  
39 ~~or more for making an independent expenditure before an election but after the period covered~~  
40 ~~by the last report due before that election.~~

41       ~~(f) For the purposes of subsection (e) of this section, a donation to the person or entity~~  
42 ~~making the independent expenditure is deemed to have been donated to further the independent~~  
43 ~~expenditure if any of subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection apply. For purposes of this~~  
44 ~~subsection, the "filer" is the person or entity making the independent expenditure and~~  
45 ~~responsible for filing the report, or an agent of that person or entity. For purposes of this~~  
46 ~~subsection, the "donor" is the person or entity donating to the filer the funds or other thing of~~  
47 ~~value, or an agent of that person or entity.~~

48           ~~(1) The donor designates, requests, or suggests that the donation be used for an~~  
49 ~~independent expenditure or for multiple independent expenditures, and the~~  
50 ~~filer agrees to use the donation for an independent expenditure.~~

- 1 (2) The filer expressly solicited the donor for a donation for making or paying  
2 for an independent expenditure.
- 3 (3) The donor and the filer engaged in substantial written or oral discussion  
4 regarding the donor's making, donating, or paying for an independent  
5 expenditure.
- 6 (4) The donor or the filer knew or had reason to know of the filer's intent to  
7 make independent expenditures with the donation.

8 A donation shall not be deemed to be made to further an independent expenditure if the  
9 donation was a commercial transaction occurring in the ordinary course of business between  
10 the donor and the filer unless there is affirmative evidence that the amounts were donated to  
11 further an independent expenditure. In determining the amount of a donation that was made to  
12 further any particular independent expenditure, there shall be excluded any amount that was  
13 designated by the donor with respect to a different election than the election that is the subject  
14 of the independent expenditure covered by the report.

15 ~~Subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection shall also apply to reports made under~~  
16 ~~subsection (c) of this section concerning contributions. However, nothing in this section shall~~  
17 ~~be interpreted to limit the effect of the prohibition on making contributions in the name of~~  
18 ~~another in G.S. 163-278.14.~~

19 (g) All reports required by this section shall be filed according to rules adopted by the  
20 State Board of Elections. If the ~~expense incurred is greater~~ reportable donations or expenses  
21 aggregate to more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the report shall be filed electronically.  
22 The State Board of Elections shall provide the software necessary to file the electronic report to  
23 any individual or person required to file an electronic report at no cost to that individual or  
24 person."

25 **SECTION 2.** Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by  
26 adding a new section to read:

27 **"§ 163-278.12B. Special reporting independent expenditures made by registered political**  
28 **committees.**

29 (a) Any political committee that is required to file disclosure reports pursuant to  
30 G.S. 163-278.9 or Part 2 of this Article which incurs expenses to make independent  
31 expenditures in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall also file informational reports  
32 with the appropriate board of elections on the same schedule set forth in G.S. 163-278.12 when  
33 such a report is not required by G.S. 163-278.9 or Part 2 of this Article. However, only  
34 contributions given to the political committee to further an independent expenditure must be  
35 included in the informational report. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit the  
36 effect of the prohibition on making contributions in the name of another in G.S. 163-278.14.

37 (b) The political committee shall file the required informational reports electronically  
38 with the appropriate board of elections if the expenses incurred or contributions received to  
39 further independent expenditures aggregate to more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

40 (c) Any person or entity other than an individual that is permitted to make contributions  
41 but is not otherwise required to report them shall report each contribution in excess of three  
42 hundred dollars (\$300.00) with the appropriate board of elections in the manner prescribed by  
43 the State Board of Elections. Additionally, the person or entity that is required to report  
44 contributions shall also report any donation it receives to further that contribution if the  
45 donation was in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

46 (d) Contributions required to be reported under subsection (c) of this section shall be  
47 reported within 10 days of occurring or within 48 hours if they occur during the 30 days before  
48 an election the contributions affect."

49 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 163-278.12C reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 163-278.12C. Special reporting of electioneering communications.**

1 (a) Every ~~individual or person~~ individual, person, or other entity that incurs an expense  
2 expenses or receives donations in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the direct costs of  
3 producing or airing electioneering communications ~~aggregating in excess of five thousand~~  
4 ~~dollars (\$5,000)~~ shall file ~~the following reports~~ a report with the appropriate board of elections  
5 in the manner prescribed by the State Board of ~~Elections~~ Elections containing all of the  
6 following:

- 7 (1) The identification of the ~~individual or person~~ individual, person, or entity  
8 incurring the expense, of any ~~individual or person~~ individual, person, or  
9 entity sharing or exercising direction or control over the activities of that  
10 ~~individual or person~~ individual, person, or entity, and of the custodian of the  
11 books and accounts of the ~~individual or person~~ individual, person, or entity  
12 incurring the expense.
- 13 (2) The principal place of business of the person or entity incurring the expense,  
14 if not an individual.
- 15 (3) The amount and date of each expense incurred during the period covered by  
16 the ~~statement~~ report and the identification of the ~~individual or person~~  
17 individual, person, or entity to whom the expense was incurred.
- 18 (4) The elections to which the electioneering communications pertain, if any,  
19 and the names, if known, of the candidates identified or to be identified.
- 20 (5) The names and addresses of all entities that donated, to further an  
21 electioneering communication or electioneering communications, funds or  
22 anything of value whatsoever in an aggregate amount of more than one  
23 thousand dollars (\$1,000) during the reporting ~~period~~ period and the date and  
24 amount of the donation received. If the donor is an individual, the ~~statement~~  
25 report shall also contain the principal occupation of the donor. The "principal  
26 occupation of the donor" shall mean the same as the "principal occupation of  
27 the contributor" in G.S. 163-278.11.

28 (b) The initial report required by this section shall be filed with the ~~State Board~~ no later  
29 than the 10th day following the day the individual or person incurs an expense for the direct  
30 costs of producing or airing an electioneering communication. ~~appropriate board of elections~~  
31 within 48 hours of expenditure or receipt of the amount in subsection (a) of this section. ~~The~~  
32 ~~State Board shall require subsequent reporting according to the same schedule required of~~  
33 ~~political committees under G.S. 163-278.9(a). An individual or person that produces or airs an~~  
34 ~~electioneering communication shall disclose by report to the State Board within 48 hours of~~  
35 ~~incurring an expense of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or more or receiving a donation of one~~  
36 ~~thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more for making an electioneering communication before an~~  
37 ~~election but after the period covered by the last report due before that election.~~ An additional  
38 report shall be filed within 48 hours of the entity incurring expenses or receiving donations to  
39 further electioneering communications that aggregate to more than five thousand dollars  
40 (\$5,000) during a period not covered by a previous report. A final report of expenses and  
41 donations required to be reported but not included in a previous report shall be filed by 30 days  
42 after the election the electioneering communications affect.

43 (c) For the purposes of ~~subdivision (a)(5)~~ of this section, a donation to the person or  
44 entity making the electioneering communication is deemed to have been donated to further the  
45 electioneering communication if any of subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection apply.  
46 For purposes of this subsection, the "filer" is the person or entity making the electioneering  
47 communication and responsible for filing the report, or an agent of that person or entity. For  
48 purposes of this subsection, the "donor" is the person or entity donating to the filer the funds or  
49 other thing of value, or an agent of that person or entity.

- 1           (1)    The donor designates, requests, or suggests that the donation be used for an  
2                   electioneering communication or electioneering communications, and the  
3                   filer agrees to use the donation for that purpose.
- 4           (2)    The filer expressly solicited the donor for a donation for making or paying  
5                   for an electioneering communication.
- 6           (3)    The donor and the filer engaged in substantial written or oral discussion  
7                   regarding the donor's making, donating, or paying for an electioneering  
8                   communication.
- 9           (4)    The donor or the filer knew or had reason to know of the filer's intent to  
10                  make electioneering communication with the donation.

11           A donation shall not be deemed to be made to further an electioneering communication if  
12           the donation was a commercial transaction occurring in the ordinary course of business  
13           between the donor and the filer unless there is affirmative evidence that the amounts were  
14           donated to further an electioneering communication. In determining the amount of a donation  
15           that was made to further any particular electioneering communication, there shall be excluded  
16           any amount that was designated by the donor with respect to a different election than the  
17           election that is the subject of the electioneering communication covered by the report.

18           (d)    All reports required by this section shall be filed ~~according to rules adopted by the~~  
19           ~~State Board. If the expense incurred is greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the report~~  
20           ~~shall be filed electronically.~~ The State Board shall provide the software necessary to file the  
21           electronic report to any individual or person required to file an electronic report at no cost to  
22           that individual or person."

23           **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective September 1, 2013, and applies to  
24           donations, contributions, and expenditures made on or after that date.