

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to SB 358:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 government transparency and campaign finance, so as to provide that the State Ethics  
3 Commission shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to  
4 an election; to provide that campaign and personal finance disclosure reports for local elected  
5 officials shall be filed with the commission instead of locally; to provide uniform reporting  
6 dates for campaigns for all levels of office; to remove registration requirements for  
7 individuals who contribute \$25,000.00 or less directly to candidates or campaign committees  
8 in a calendar year; to provide for registration of certain political action committees; to require  
9 certain political action committees to maintain bank accounts; to provide disclosure reporting  
10 requirements for certain political action committees; to revise and make more uniform  
11 reporting dates for personal financial disclosure statements for office holders and candidates;  
12 to revise provisions related to reporting income on personal financial disclosure statements  
13 for office holders; to provide that the commission shall not publicly release home address  
14 information in its possession; to revise lobbyist reporting requirements to make the reporting  
15 dates for such requirements more uniform; to provide for related matters; to provide an  
16 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

S. B. 358 (SUB)

**SECTION 1.**

18  
19 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to government  
20 transparency and campaign finance, is amended by revising Code Section 21-5-7, relating  
21 to initiation of complaints, as follows:

22 "21-5-7.

23 (a) The commission shall not initiate any investigation or inquiry into any matter under its  
24 jurisdiction based upon the complaint of any person, including a staff attorney employed  
25 by the commission, unless that person or staff attorney shall produce the same in writing  
26 and verify the same under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief of such  
27 person, the falsification of which shall be punishable as false swearing under Code  
28 Section 16-10-71.

29 (b) The person against whom any complaint is made shall be furnished by hand delivery  
30 or statutory overnight delivery or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy  
31 of the complaint by the commission within two business days of the commission's receipt  
32 of such complaint and prior to any other public dissemination of such complaint.

33 (c) The commission shall not accept or reject a complaint made, nor issue a complaint on  
34 its own cognizance, against a candidate in the 60 days immediately prior to an election in  
35 which such candidate is seeking nomination for election or election."

**SECTION 2.**

36  
37 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-5-34, relating to campaign  
38 disclosure reports, as follows:

39 "21-5-34.

40 (a)(1)(A) The candidate or the chairperson or treasurer of each campaign committee  
41 organized to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate for any office and  
42 the chairperson or treasurer of every campaign committee designed to bring about the  
43 recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer or designed to bring

44 about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment,  
45 state-wide proposed question, or state-wide referendum shall electronically sign and file  
46 with the commission the required campaign contribution disclosure reports; ~~provided,~~  
47 ~~however, that public offices listed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code~~  
48 ~~Section 21-5-3 shall be subject to signing and filing requirements as prescribed by~~  
49 ~~paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection, and recalls for such offices shall be subject to~~  
50 ~~signing and filing requirements the same as required of candidates for such offices as~~  
51 ~~prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.~~

52 (B) The chairperson or treasurer of each independent committee shall file the required  
53 disclosure reports with the commission.

54 (2)(A) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures  
55 designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed question  
56 which is to appear on the ballot in this state shall register with the commission and file  
57 campaign contribution disclosure reports as prescribed by this chapter ~~or, in the case~~  
58 ~~of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in a county or municipal~~  
59 ~~election, shall register and file campaign disclosure reports with the same officials as~~  
60 ~~prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection for candidates for county or~~  
61 ~~municipal offices; provided, however, that such reports shall only be required if such~~  
62 ~~campaign committee has received contributions which total more than \$500.00 or if~~  
63 ~~such campaign committee has made expenditures which total more than \$500.00. All~~  
64 ~~advertising pertaining to referendums shall identify the principal officer of such~~  
65 ~~campaign committee by listing or stating the name and title of the principal officer.~~

66 (B) If a campaign committee is required to file a report with the commission under  
67 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such report shall be electronically filed. Any such  
68 report shall be filed 15 days prior to the date of the election; and a final report shall be  
69 filed prior to December 31 of the election year.

70 ~~(3) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (22) of Code~~  
71 ~~Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee~~  
72 ~~shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the election superintendent in the~~  
73 ~~county of election. Upon receipt of any such report, the election superintendent shall~~  
74 ~~cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article~~  
75 ~~4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The election superintendent shall transmit a copy of each~~  
76 ~~such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days~~  
77 ~~after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to~~  
78 ~~identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the~~  
79 ~~commission on a candidate for the failure of the election superintendent to timely~~  
80 ~~transmit a copy of such report. The commission is authorized to impose civil penalties~~  
81 ~~pursuant to subparagraph (b)(14)(C) of Code Section 21-5-6 against an election~~  
82 ~~superintendent who fails to properly transmit a copy of each such report, upon finding~~  
83 ~~that said superintendent willfully failed to comply with the provisions of this chapter.~~  
84 ~~(4) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (22) of Code~~  
85 ~~Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee~~  
86 ~~shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the municipal clerk in the~~  
87 ~~municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the~~  
88 ~~municipality; provided, however, that a municipality and a county may enter into an~~  
89 ~~agreement whereby such candidates, chairpersons, or treasurers shall file the required~~  
90 ~~disclosure reports with the county election superintendent instead. Upon receipt of any~~  
91 ~~such report, the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county~~  
92 ~~election superintendent, as applicable, shall cause such report to be available for~~  
93 ~~inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The~~  
94 ~~municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county election~~  
95 ~~superintendent, as applicable, shall transmit a copy of each such report to the~~  
96 ~~commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the~~

97 ~~grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a~~  
98 ~~candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on a~~  
99 ~~candidate for the failure of the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or~~  
100 ~~county election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report. The commission~~  
101 ~~is authorized to impose civil penalties pursuant to subparagraph (b)(14)(C) of Code~~  
102 ~~Section 21-5-6 against a municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or county~~  
103 ~~election superintendent who fails to properly transmit a copy of each such report, upon~~  
104 ~~finding that said municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or county election~~  
105 ~~superintendent willfully failed to comply with the provisions of this chapter.~~

106 (a.1)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section providing  
107 for signing and filing with the commission to the contrary, public offices listed in  
108 subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 shall be subject to the  
109 following signing and filing requirements until December 31, 2025:

110 (A) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (22) of  
111 Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign  
112 committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the election  
113 superintendent in the county of election. Upon receipt of any such report, the election  
114 superintendent shall cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in  
115 accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The election superintendent shall  
116 transmit a copy of each such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or  
117 eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction,  
118 including but not limited to identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file,  
119 shall be imposed by the commission on a candidate for the failure of the election  
120 superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report. The commission is authorized  
121 to impose civil penalties pursuant to subparagraph (b)(14)(C) of Code Section 21-5-6  
122 against an election superintendent who fails to properly transmit a copy of each such

123 report, upon finding that said superintendent willfully failed to comply with the  
124 provisions of this chapter; or

125 (B) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (22) of  
126 Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign  
127 committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the municipal clerk  
128 in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer  
129 of the municipality; provided, however, that a municipality and a county may enter into  
130 an agreement whereby such candidates, chairpersons, or treasurers shall file the  
131 required disclosure reports with the county election superintendent instead. Upon  
132 receipt of any such report, the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the  
133 municipality, or county election superintendent, as applicable, shall cause such report  
134 to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18  
135 of Title 50. The municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county  
136 election superintendent, as applicable, shall transmit a copy of each such report to the  
137 commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of  
138 the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a  
139 candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on  
140 a candidate for the failure of the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county,  
141 or county election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report. The  
142 commission is authorized to impose civil penalties pursuant to subparagraph (b)(14)(C)  
143 of Code Section 21-5-6 against a municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county,  
144 or county election superintendent who fails to properly transmit a copy of each such  
145 report, upon finding that said municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or  
146 county election superintendent willfully failed to comply with the provisions of this  
147 chapter.

148 (2) This subsection shall stand repealed on December 31, 2025.

149 (b)(1) All reports shall list the following:

150 (A) As to any contribution of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of receipt, the  
151 election for which the contribution has been accepted and allocated, along with the  
152 name and mailing address of the contributor, and, if the contributor is an individual, that  
153 individual's occupation and the name of his or her employer. Such contributions shall  
154 include, but shall not be limited to, the purchase of tickets for events such as dinners,  
155 luncheons, rallies, and similar fund-raising events coordinated for the purpose of raising  
156 campaign contributions for the reporting person;

157 (B) As to any expenditure of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of expenditure,  
158 the name and mailing address of the recipient receiving the expenditure, and, if that  
159 recipient is an individual, that individual's occupation and the name of his or her  
160 employer and the general purpose of the expenditure;

161 (C) When a contribution consists of a loan, advance, or other extension of credit, the  
162 report shall also contain the name of the lending institution or party making the advance  
163 or extension of credit and the names, mailing addresses, occupations, and places of  
164 employment of all persons having any liability for repayment of the loan, advance, or  
165 extension of credit; and, if any such persons shall have a fiduciary relationship to the  
166 lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit, the report shall  
167 specify such relationship;

168 (D) Total contributions received and total expenditures shall be reported for an election  
169 cycle as follows:

170 (i) The first report filed after an election year shall list the cash on hand brought  
171 forward from the previous election cycle, if any, and the total contributions received  
172 during the period covered by the report;

173 (ii) Subsequent reports shall list the total contributions received during the period  
174 covered by the report and the cumulative total of contributions received during the  
175 election cycle;

- 176 (iii) The first report filed after an election year shall list the total expenditures made  
177 during the period covered by the report;
- 178 (iv) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period  
179 covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the election  
180 cycle, and net balance on hand; and
- 181 (v) If a public officer seeks reelection to the same public office, or if the public  
182 officer is a member of the General Assembly seeking reelection in another district as  
183 a result of redistricting, the net balance on hand at the end of the current election cycle  
184 shall be carried forward to the first report filed after the election year;
- 185 (E) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee or  
186 independent committee making a contribution of more than \$100.00;
- 187 (F) Any investment made with funds of a campaign committee, independent  
188 committee, or political action committee and held outside such committee's official  
189 depository account during each reporting period for which an investment exists or a  
190 transaction applying to an identifiable investment is made. The report shall identify the  
191 name of the entity or person with whom such investment was made, the initial and any  
192 subsequent amount of such investment if such investment was made during the  
193 reporting period, and any profit or loss from the sale of such investment which occurred  
194 during such reporting period; and
- 195 (G) Total debt owed on the last day of the reporting period.
- 196 (2) Each report shall be in such form as will allow for the separate identification of a  
197 contribution or contributions which are less than \$100.00 but which become reportable  
198 due to the receipt of an additional contribution or contributions which when combined  
199 with such previously received contribution or contributions cumulatively equal or  
200 exceed \$100.00.
- 201 (c) Candidates or campaign committees which accept contributions, make expenditures  
202 designed to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate, or have filed a



203 declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions pursuant to subsection (g) of  
204 Code Section 21-5-30 shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports in compliance  
205 with the following schedule:

206 (1) In each nonelection year on January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 15:-

207 ~~(A) Candidates for public office and public officers as defined in subparagraphs (A),~~  
208 ~~(C), and (D) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 shall file on January 31 and~~  
209 ~~June 30.~~

210 ~~(B) Candidates for public office and public officers as defined in subparagraphs (B),~~  
211 ~~(F), and (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 shall file on June 30 and~~  
212 ~~December 31;~~

213 (2) In each election year:

214 (A) On January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 15 ~~June 30, September 30, October~~  
215 ~~25, and December 31;~~

216 (B) Six days before any run-off primary or election in which the candidate is listed on  
217 the ballot; and

218 (C) During the period of time between the last report due prior to the date of any  
219 election for which the candidate is qualified and the date of such election, all  
220 contributions of \$1,000.00 or more shall be reported within two business days of receipt  
221 and also reported on the next succeeding regularly scheduled campaign contribution  
222 disclosure report; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall only apply to  
223 contributions of \$1,000.00 or more that are designated for the same actual election as  
224 the one for which the individual is currently a candidate. Nothing in this Code section  
225 shall be construed to require a contribution of \$1,000.00 or more that is designated as  
226 a general election contribution to be reported during the two business day report period  
227 of a primary election;

228 (3) If the candidate is a candidate in a special primary or special primary runoff, 15 days  
229 prior to the special primary and six days prior to the special primary runoff; and

230 (4) If the candidate is a candidate in a special election or special election runoff, 15 days  
231 prior to the special election and six days prior to the special election runoff.

232 All persons or entities required to file reports shall have a ~~five-day~~ 15 day grace period in  
233 filing the required reports, except that the grace period shall be two days for required  
234 reports prior to run-off primaries or run-off elections, and no grace period shall apply to  
235 contributions required to be reported within two business days. Reports required to be filed  
236 within two business days of a contribution shall be reported by facsimile or electronic  
237 transmission. Any facsimile filing shall also have an identical electronic filing within five  
238 business days following the transmission of such facsimile filing. Each report required in  
239 the election year shall contain cumulative totals of all contributions which have been  
240 received and all expenditures which have been made in support of the campaign in question  
241 and which are required, or previously have been required, to be reported.

242 (d) In the event any candidate covered by this chapter has no opposition in either a primary  
243 or a general election and receives no contribution of more than \$100.00, such candidate  
244 shall only be required to make the initial and final report as required under this chapter.

245 ~~(d.1)(1) In the event a candidate for nomination or election to a public office listed in~~  
246 ~~subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or~~  
247 ~~treasurer of a campaign committee organized to bring about the nomination or election~~  
248 ~~of such candidate signs and files with the appropriate official specified by paragraph (3)~~  
249 ~~or (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section a written notice that such candidate or~~  
250 ~~campaign committee does not intend to accept during such election cycle a combined~~  
251 ~~total of contributions exceeding \$2,500.00 for the campaign nor make a combined total~~  
252 ~~of expenditures exceeding \$2,500.00 for the campaign in such election cycle, then such~~  
253 ~~candidate or campaign committee shall not be required to file a report under this Code~~  
254 ~~section. The appropriate official shall transmit an electronic copy of the written notice~~  
255 ~~by eFiling or eFax to the commission within ten days of receipt of such notice. The~~  
256 ~~failure of the appropriate official to timely transmit such copy of the written notice to the~~

257 ~~commission shall not disqualify the candidate or campaign committee from the~~  
258 ~~exemption from report filing provided by this paragraph.~~

259 ~~(2) If such candidate or campaign committee exceeds the \$2,500.00 limit for either~~  
260 ~~accepting contributions or making expenditures for such campaign during such election~~  
261 ~~cycle as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection but does not accept a combined total~~  
262 ~~of contributions exceeding \$5,000.00 in such election cycle nor make expenditures~~  
263 ~~exceeding \$5,000.00 in such election cycle, then such candidate or campaign committee~~  
264 ~~shall be required to file only the June 30 and December 31 reports required by~~  
265 ~~paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Code section. The first such report shall include~~  
266 ~~all contributions received and expenditures made beginning January 1 of such calendar~~  
267 ~~year.~~

268 ~~(3) If such candidate or campaign committee accepts a combined total of contributions~~  
269 ~~exceeding \$5,000.00 or makes expenditures exceeding \$5,000.00 for such campaign~~  
270 ~~during any such election cycle, then such candidate or campaign committee chairperson~~  
271 ~~or treasurer shall thereupon be subject to the reporting requirements of this Code section~~  
272 ~~the same as if the written notice authorized by this subsection had not been filed.~~

273 (e) Any person who makes contributions to, accepts contributions for, or makes  
274 expenditures on behalf of candidates, and any independent committee, shall file a  
275 registration in the same manner as is required of campaign committees prior to accepting  
276 or making contributions or expenditures. Such persons, other than independent  
277 committees, shall also file campaign contribution disclosure reports at the same times as  
278 required of the candidates they are supporting and a December 31 campaign contribution  
279 disclosure report regardless of whether the candidate they are supporting has a  
280 December 31 campaign contribution disclosure report due. The following persons shall  
281 be exempt from the foregoing registration and reporting requirements:

282 (1) ~~Individuals making aggregate contributions of \$25,000.00 or less directly to~~  
283 ~~candidates or the candidates' campaign committees in one calendar year;~~

284 (2) Persons other than individuals making aggregate contributions and expenditures to  
285 or on behalf of two or more candidates in the amount of \$25,000.00 \$5,000.00 or less in  
286 one calendar year; and

287 ~~(3)~~(2) Contributors who make contributions to only one candidate during one calendar  
288 year.

289 (e.1) Any political action committee which makes contributions to, accepts contributions  
290 for, or makes expenditures on behalf of candidates shall file a registration in the same  
291 manner as is required of campaign committees prior to accepting or making contributions  
292 or expenditures. Prior to such registration, such political action committee shall open a  
293 bank account in the name of such committee. Such political action committee shall  
294 maintain such bank account until the political action committee is terminated. Such  
295 political action committee shall also file campaign contribution disclosure reports on  
296 January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 15 until the bank account required by this  
297 subsection has been zeroed out and the political action committee has been terminated.

298 (f)(1) Any independent committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures  
299 for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election or advocates the election or defeat  
300 of any candidate shall register with the commission prior to accepting contributions or  
301 making expenditures and shall file disclosure reports as follows:

302 (A) On the first day of each of the two calendar months preceding any such election;

303 (B) Two weeks prior to the date of such election; and

304 (C) Within the two-week period prior to the date of such election the independent  
305 committee shall report within two business days any contributions or expenditure of  
306 more than \$1,000.00.

307 The independent committee shall file a final report prior to December 31 of the election  
308 year and shall file supplemental reports on June 30 and December 31 of each year that  
309 such independent committee continues to accept contributions or make expenditures.

310 (2) Reports filed by independent committees shall list the following:

- 311 (A) The amount and date of receipt, along with the name, mailing address, occupation,  
312 and employer of any person making a contribution of more than \$100.00;
- 313 (B) The name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of any person to whom an  
314 expenditure or provision of goods or services of the value of more than \$100.00 is made  
315 and the amount, date, and general purpose thereof, including the name of the candidate  
316 or candidates, if any, on behalf of whom, or in support of or in opposition to whom, the  
317 expenditure or provision was made;
- 318 (C) Total expenditures made as follows:
- 319 (i) Expenditures shall be reported for the applicable reporting year;
- 320 (ii) The first report of a reporting year shall list the total expenditures made during  
321 the period covered by the report; and
- 322 (iii) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period  
323 covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the reporting  
324 year, and net balance on hand; and
- 325 (D) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee,  
326 candidate, campaign committee, or independent committee making a contribution of  
327 the value of more than \$100.00.
- 328 (3) Whenever any independent committee makes an expenditure for the purpose of  
329 financing any communication intended to affect the outcome of an election, such  
330 communication shall clearly state that it has been financed by such independent  
331 committee.
- 332 (g) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed  
333 to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer shall  
334 file campaign contribution disclosure reports as follows:
- 335 (1) An initial report shall be filed within 15 days after the date when the official recall  
336 petition forms were issued to the sponsors;
- 337 (2) A second report shall be filed 45 days after the filing of the initial report;

338 (3) A third report shall be filed within 20 days after the election superintendent certifies  
339 legal sufficiency or insufficiency of a recall petition; and

340 (4) A final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the year in which the recall  
341 election is held or, in any case where such recall election is not held, a final report shall  
342 be filed prior to December 31 of any year in which such campaign committee accepts  
343 such contributions or makes such expenditures.

344 (h) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed  
345 to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of a proposed constitutional  
346 amendment or a state-wide referendum shall file a campaign contribution disclosure  
347 report 75, 45, and 15 days prior to the date of the election and shall file a final report prior  
348 to December 31 of the election year.

349 (i)(1) Any person elected to a public office who is required to file campaign contribution  
350 disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall, upon leaving public office with excess  
351 contributions, be required to file supplemental campaign contribution disclosure reports  
352 on ~~June 30 and December 31~~ January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 15 of each year  
353 until such contributions are expended in a campaign for elective office or used as  
354 provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33.

355 (2) Any person who is an unsuccessful candidate in an election and who is required to  
356 file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall for the  
357 remainder of the election cycle file such reports at the same times as a successful  
358 candidate and thereafter, upon having excess contributions from such campaign, be  
359 required to file a supplemental campaign contribution disclosure report ~~no later than~~  
360 ~~December 31~~ on January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 15 of each year until such  
361 contributions are expended in a campaign for elective office or used as provided in  
362 subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33. Any unsuccessful candidate in an election who  
363 is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article and  
364 who receives contributions following such election to retire debts incurred in such

365 campaign for elective office shall be required to file a supplemental campaign  
366 contribution disclosure report ~~no later than December 31~~ on January 31, April 30, July  
367 31, and October 15 of each year until such unpaid expenditures from such campaign are  
368 satisfied.

369 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, soil and water  
370 conservation district supervisors elected pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 2, the  
371 'Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law,' shall not be required to file campaign  
372 contribution disclosure reports under this Code section.

373 (k)(1) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a late fee of \$125.00  
374 shall be imposed by the person or entity with which filing is required for each report that  
375 is filed late, and notice of such late fee shall be sent to the candidate and the candidate's  
376 committee in the same manner by which the penalized report was filed with the  
377 commission. However, if the report in question was not filed or was filed with the  
378 commission in a manner other than electronic filing or certified mail, return receipt  
379 requested, the commission shall utilize certified mail, return receipt requested, to notify  
380 the candidate and the candidate's committee of the late fee due. The notice shall include  
381 the schedule of increasing late fees for late filings and the dates upon which such late fees  
382 shall be increased. In addition, a late fee of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day  
383 after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed by such date. A late fee  
384 of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such report if  
385 such report has not been filed. Notice by electronic means does not satisfy the  
386 requirements of this paragraph; and any increased late fees shall be stayed until at least  
387 ten days after proper notice has been given as specified in this paragraph.

388 (2) The commission shall retain \$25.00 of the first late fee received by the commission  
389 for processing pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 45-12-92.1.

390 (l) It shall be the duty of the commission ~~or other official~~ when it receives for filing any  
391 disclosure report or statement or other document that may be filed by mail to maintain with

392 the filed document a copy of the postal markings or statutory overnight delivery service  
 393 markings of any envelope, package, or wrapping in which the document was delivered for  
 394 filing if mailed or sent after the date such filing was due.

395 (m) Any person or entity which is required to be registered under this Code section shall  
 396 file a termination statement together with its final campaign contribution disclosure report  
 397 as required by this Code section within ten days of the dissolution of a campaign or  
 398 committee. The termination statement shall identify the person responsible for maintaining  
 399 campaign records as required by this chapter."

400 **SECTION 3.**

401 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-5-50, relating to filing by public officers,  
 402 filing by candidates for public office, filing by elected officials and members of the General  
 403 Assembly, and electronic filing, by revising subsections (a) and (c) as follows:

404 "(a)(1) Except as modified in subsection (c) of this Code section with respect to  
 405 candidates for state-wide elected public office:

406 (A) Each each public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph  
 407 (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, and each person who qualifies as a candidate for election  
 408 to any such public office shall file with the commission ~~not before the first day of~~  
 409 ~~January nor~~ no later than ~~July~~ April 1 of each year in which such public officer holds  
 410 office ~~other than an election year~~ a financial disclosure statement for the preceding  
 411 calendar year; and

412 (B) Each each person who qualifies in a special election as a candidate for election as  
 413 a public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (22) of Code  
 414 Section 21-5-3, shall file with the commission, no later than the fifteenth day following  
 415 the date of qualifying as a candidate, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding  
 416 calendar year.



417 (2) Except as set forth in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a public officer, as defined in  
418 subparagraph (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall not be required to file  
419 a financial disclosure statement pursuant to this Code section. Each such public officer  
420 shall, however, be deemed to be a public official for purposes of Code Section 45-10-26  
421 and shall be subject to the disclosure requirements set forth in Code Section 45-10-26.  
422 In addition, each such public officer shall file with the commission, prior to January 31  
423 each year, an affidavit confirming that such public officer took no official action in the  
424 previous calendar year that had a material effect on such public officer's private financial  
425 or business interests; provided, however, that, if a public officer as defined in  
426 subparagraph (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 has previously filed or is  
427 subject to filing a financial disclosure statement with the commission pursuant to this  
428 paragraph, and said financial disclosure statement covers the same calendar year as would  
429 be covered by the affidavit required by this Code section, the public officer shall be  
430 exempted from filing an affidavit. No retired judge or senior judge of any court of this  
431 state shall be required to file an affidavit pursuant to this Code section.

432 (3) A public officer, as defined in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (22) of Code  
433 Section 21-5-3, who serves as a member of the commission shall be subject to the  
434 requirements for filing financial disclosure statements set forth in paragraph (1) of this  
435 subsection. In addition, each such public officer shall file with the commission, together  
436 with the financial disclosure statement, an affidavit confirming that such public officer  
437 took no official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on such  
438 public officer's private financial or business interests.

439 (3.1) Until December 31, 2025, a ~~A~~ public officer and candidates for election as a public  
440 officer, as defined in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section  
441 21-5-3, shall make filings of the same kind and in the same manner as provided in  
442 paragraph (1) of this subsection for other public officers and candidates for election as  
443 a public officer except that filings under this paragraph shall be made with the election

444 superintendent of the county in the case of public officers and candidates for election as  
445 a public officer as defined in said subparagraph (F) and shall be made with the municipal  
446 clerk in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive  
447 officer of the municipality in the case of public officers as defined in said subparagraph  
448 (G). The election superintendent, municipal clerk, or chief executive officer, as  
449 applicable, shall transmit, electronically by eFiling or eFax, a copy of each such report  
450 to the commission not later than 30 days after the close of the reporting period. No fine,  
451 fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a public officer or candidate for  
452 election as a public officer as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the  
453 commission on the public officer or candidate for election as a public officer for the  
454 failure of the election superintendent, municipal clerk, or chief executive officer to timely  
455 transmit a copy of such report. As of January 1, 2026, such public officers and  
456 candidates shall file disclosure statements with the commission in the same manner  
457 provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

458 (4) Each member of the State Transportation Board shall file a financial disclosure  
459 statement for the preceding calendar year no later than the sixtieth day following such  
460 member's election to the State Transportation Board. Thereafter, each board member  
461 shall file by ~~January 31~~ April 1 of each year a financial disclosure statement for the  
462 preceding year. In addition, each board member shall file with the commission, prior to  
463 ~~January 31~~ April 1 of each year, an affidavit confirming that such board member took no  
464 official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on such board  
465 member's private financial or business interests.

466 (5) The commission or the applicable official under paragraph (3.1) of this subsection  
467 shall review each financial disclosure statement to determine that such statement is in  
468 compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

469 (6) A public officer shall not, however, be required to file such a financial disclosure  
470 statement for the preceding calendar year in an election year if such public officer does

471 not qualify for nomination for election to succeed himself or herself or for election to any  
472 other public office subject to this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a public officer  
473 shall not be deemed to hold office in a year in which the public officer holds office for  
474 fewer than 15 days."

475 "(c)(1) Each person who qualifies with a political party as a candidate for party  
476 nomination to a public office elected state wide, (including an incumbent public officer  
477 elected state wide qualifying to succeed himself or herself), shall file with the  
478 commission, not later than ~~seven days after so qualifying~~ April 1 of such election year,  
479 a financial disclosure statement. Each person who qualifies as a candidate for election  
480 to a public office elected state wide through a nomination petition or convention shall  
481 likewise file a financial disclosure statement not later than ~~seven days after filing his or~~  
482 ~~her notice of candidacy~~ April 1 of such election year. Such financial disclosure statement  
483 shall comply with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section and  
484 shall in addition identify, for the preceding five calendar years:

485 (A) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar  
486 year in which the candidate (whether for himself or herself or on behalf of any  
487 business) or any business in which such candidate or any member of his or her family  
488 has a substantial interest or is an officer of such business has transacted business with  
489 the government of the State of Georgia, the government of any political subdivision of  
490 the State of Georgia, or any agency of any such government; and

491 (B) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar  
492 year in which the candidate or any business in which such candidate or any member of  
493 his or her family has a substantial interest or is an officer of such business received any  
494 income of any nature from any person who was at the time of such receipt of income  
495 represented by a lobbyist registered with the commission pursuant to Article 4 of this  
496 chapter.

497 (2) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
498 include an itemized list of the transactions required to be reported, including the date of,  
499 dollar amount of, and parties to each such transaction. However, with respect to any  
500 transactions of a privileged nature only the total amount of such transactions shall be  
501 required to be reported, and names, dates, amounts of individual transactions, and other  
502 identifying data may be omitted; and for this purpose 'transactions of a privileged nature'  
503 shall include transactions between attorney and client, transactions between psychiatrist  
504 and patient, transactions between physician and patient, and any other transactions which  
505 are by law of a similar privileged and confidential nature.

506 (3) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
507 be accompanied by a financial statement of the candidate's financial affairs for the five  
508 calendar years prior to the year in which the election is held and the first quarter of the  
509 calendar year in which the election is held.

510 (3.1) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
511 include the source or sources of the candidate's income for the five calendar years prior  
512 to the year in which the election is held ~~and the first quarter of the calendar year in which~~  
513 ~~the election is held.~~

514 (4) As used in this subsection, the term:

515 (A) 'Agency' means any agency, authority, department, board, bureau, commission,  
516 committee, office, or instrumentality of the State of Georgia or any political subdivision  
517 of the State of Georgia.

518 (B) 'Financial statement' means a statement of a candidate's financial affairs ~~in a form~~  
519 ~~substantially equivalent to the short form financial statement required for bank directors~~  
520 ~~under the rules of the Department of Banking and Finance~~ which details the source and  
521 type of income with an indication of which of the following categories the amount or  
522 value of such item of income is within:

523 (i) Not more than \$1,000.00;

- 524 (ii) Greater than \$1,000.00 but not more than \$2,500.00;  
 525 (iii) Greater than \$2,500.00 but not more than \$5,000.00;  
 526 (iv) Greater than \$5,000.00 but not more than \$15,000.00;  
 527 (v) Greater than \$15,000.00 but not more than \$50,000.00;  
 528 (vi) Greater than \$50,000.00 but not more than \$100,000.00;  
 529 (vii) Greater than \$100,000.00 but not more than \$1 million;  
 530 (viii) Greater than \$1 million but not more than \$5 million; or  
 531 (ix) Greater than \$5 million.

532 (C) 'Person' and 'transact business' shall have the meanings specified in Code  
 533 Section 45-10-20.

534 (D) 'Substantial interest' means the direct or indirect ownership of 10 percent or more  
 535 of the assets or stock of any business.

536 (5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, if, due to a special election  
 537 or otherwise, a person does not qualify as a candidate for nomination or election to public  
 538 office until after the filing date otherwise applicable, such person shall make the filings  
 539 required by this subsection within seven days after so qualifying."

#### 540 **SECTION 4.**

541 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-5-51, relating to inspection and  
 542 copying of financial disclosure statements, as follows:

543 "21-5-51.

544 (a) Financial disclosure statements filed pursuant to this article shall be public records and  
 545 shall be subject to inspection and copying by any member of the public as provided by law  
 546 for other public records.

547 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section or any provision of Chapter 18 of  
 548 Title 50 to the contrary, the commission shall redact any identifiable home addresses from  
 549 any records the commission discloses, posts, or releases to the public."

550 **SECTION 5.**

551 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-5-73, relating to lobbyist disclosure  
552 reports, by revising subsections (b), (c), and (d) as follows:

553 "(b) A person who is required to register under this article and:

554 (1) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General  
555 Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the  
556 approval or veto of legislation by the Governor; shall file a semimonthly disclosure report  
557 on the first and fifteenth day of each month, current through the end of the preceding  
558 report, beginning January 15 and continuing throughout the period that the General  
559 Assembly is in session.

560 (2) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public  
561 officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3,  
562 or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance  
563 or resolution;

564 (3) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General  
565 Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the  
566 approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

567 (4) As an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government,  
568 lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public  
569 officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3,  
570 or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance  
571 or resolution;

572 (5) Lobbies to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to  
573 supply any goods or services to any state agency; or

574 (6) Lobbies to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board  
575 shall file a monthly disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding period, on  
576 or before the fifth day of each month.

577 (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section, a person who  
578 is required to register under this article and lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any  
579 ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of  
580 paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the  
581 approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution shall: file a disclosure report on or  
582 before the fifth day of each month, provided that all persons or entities required to file such  
583 reports shall have a five-day grace period in filing the required reports.

584 ~~(1) File a disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding month, on or before~~  
585 ~~the fifth day of May, September, and January of each year instead of the reports required~~  
586 ~~by subsections (b) and (d) of this Code section; and~~

587 ~~(2) File such report with the commission, file a copy of such with the election~~  
588 ~~superintendent of each county involved if the report contains any lobbying expenditures~~  
589 ~~relating to county or county school district affairs, and file a copy of such report with the~~  
590 ~~municipal clerk (or if there is no municipal clerk, with the chief executive officer of the~~  
591 ~~municipality) of each municipality involved if the report contains any lobbying~~  
592 ~~expenditures relating to municipal affairs or independent school district affairs.~~

593 ~~(d) A person who is required to register under this article and:~~

594 ~~(1) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General~~  
595 ~~Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the~~  
596 ~~approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;~~

597 ~~(2) As an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government,~~  
598 ~~lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public~~  
599 ~~officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3,~~  
600 ~~or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance~~  
601 ~~or resolution;~~

602 ~~(3) Lobbies to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to~~  
603 ~~supply any goods or services to any state agency; or~~

604 ~~(4) Lobbies to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board~~  
605 ~~shall file a monthly disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding period, on~~  
606 ~~or before the fifth day of each month; provided, however, that such monthly reports shall~~  
607 ~~not be filed during any period that the lobbyist files a semimonthly report pursuant to~~  
608 ~~subsection (b) of this Code section.~~  
609 (d) Reserved.

610 **SECTION 6.**

611 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

612 **SECTION 7.**

613 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.