SENATE BILL No. 371-SENATOR TOWNSEND

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing eligibility to run for public office and the reporting of campaign contributions and expenses. (BDR 24-237)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 15) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; revising provisions governing the reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Sections 1 and 7 of this bill add new provisions to chapters 293 and 293C of NRS that would make an elected state or local public officer who wishes to file a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for a different elected public office ineligible to do so unless he first resigns from his current term of public office or unless his current term will end within 14 months after the filing of the declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy.

Under existing law, candidates, committees for political action, political parties, committees sponsored by a political party, committees for the recall of a public officer and certain persons, groups of persons or entities making expenditures on behalf of candidates, in support of the passage or defeat of ballot questions or in support of a petition for the placement of a constitutional amendment or statewide measure on a ballot are required to file periodic reports with the Secretary of State or a county clerk or city clerk disclosing campaign contributions accepted, dispositions of unspent contributions and expenditures made over a certain elapsed period. (Chapter 294A of NRS) Sections 16-30 of this bill repeal these sections and replace them with requirements that the candidates, current public officers and the same other persons and entities must disclose each campaign contribution accepted in excess of \$100 and those accepted from the same contributor that cumulatively exceed \$100, each disposition of an unspent contribution that exceeds \$100, each contribution from an anonymous or unidentifiable contributor of \$100 or more and each expenditure made in excess of \$100, along with the appropriate names and addresses, within 48 hours after the acceptance, disposition or expenditure, by entering that information through a secure connection to a link on the appropriate



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Internet website. **Sections 11-15** of this bill require the Secretary of State, or the county or city clerk, as appropriate, to create links for such candidates, current public officers and the same other persons and entities and specify that the links must be available to such persons and entities through a secure connection for the entering of each such campaign contribution accepted, disposition of an unspent or anonymous contribution and expenditure made within that 48-hour period. **Sections 11-15** also specify that the links must be available to the public for the viewing of all entrances made by the candidate, public officer and other persons and entities. For candidates and current public officers, **sections 11, 16 and 17** also require that the links on the appropriate Internet websites calculate and show to the candidate, the public officer and the public the balance of money that is available to the candidate or public officer, taking into account the most recent entry of such a campaign contribution, disposition of an unspent or anonymous contribution or expenditure.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:
- (a) An elected state or local public officer; or
- (b) A person appointed to serve as an elected state or local public officer for the remainder of an unexpired term to which another person was elected,
 - may not file a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for a different public office to be voted on at a primary election or general election, unless he first resigns his current elected state or local public office.
 - 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a public officer whose current term of state or local public office will end within 14 months after he files his declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for the different state or local public office.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 293.128 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 293.128 1. To qualify as a major political party, any organization must, under a common name:
 - (a) On January 1 preceding any primary election, have been designated as a political party on the applications to register to vote of at least 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in this State; or
 - (b) File a petition with the Secretary of State not later than the last Friday in April before any primary election signed by a number of registered voters equal to or more than 10 percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the offices of Representative in Congress.



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- 2. If a petition is filed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the names of the voters need not all be on one document, but each document of the petition must be verified by the circulator thereof to the effect that the signers are registered voters of this State according to his best information and belief and that the signatures are genuine and were signed in his presence. Each document of the petition must bear the name of a county, and only registered voters of that county may sign the document. The documents which are circulated for signature must then be submitted for verification pursuant to NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, not later than 25 working days before the last Friday in April preceding a primary election.
- 3. In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection 1, each organization which wishes to qualify as a political party must file with the Secretary of State a certificate of existence which includes the:
 - (a) Name of the political party;

- (b) Names and addresses of its officers;
- (c) Names of the members of its executive committee; [and]
- 20 (d) Name of the person who is authorized by the party to act as resident agent in this State : and
 - (e) Name and description of any committee sponsored by the political party.
 - 4. A political party shall file with the Secretary of State an amended certificate of existence within 5 days after any change in the information contained in the certificate [...], including, without limitation, the fact that it has sponsored a new committee.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 293.171 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 293.171 1. To qualify as a minor political party, an organization must file with the Secretary of State a certificate of existence which includes the:
 - (a) Name of the political party;
 - (b) Names of its officers;
 - (c) Names of the members of its executive committee; [and]
 - (d) Name of the person authorized to file the list of its candidates for partisan office with the Secretary of State [...]; and
 - (e) Name and description of any committee sponsored by the minor political party.
 - 2. A copy of the constitution or bylaws of the party must be affixed to the certificate.
 - 3. A minor political party shall file with the Secretary of State an amended certificate of existence within 5 days after any change in the information contained in the certificate [.], including, without limitation, the fact that it has sponsored a new committee.





- 4. The constitution or bylaws of a minor political party must provide a procedure for the nomination of its candidates in such a manner that only one candidate may be nominated for each office.
- 5. A minor political party whose candidates for partisan office do not appear on the ballot for the general election must file a notice of continued existence with the Secretary of State not later than the second Friday in August preceding the general election.
- 6. A minor political party which fails to file a notice of continued existence as required by subsection 5 ceases to exist as a minor political party in this State.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 293.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.175 1. The primary election must be held on the 12th Tuesday before the general election in each even-numbered year.
- 2. Candidates for partisan office of a major political party and candidates for nonpartisan office must be nominated at the primary election.
- 3. Candidates for partisan office of a minor political party must be nominated in the manner prescribed pursuant to NRS 293.171 to 293.174, inclusive.
- 4. Independent candidates for partisan office must be nominated in the manner provided in NRS 293.200.
- 5. The provisions of NRS 293.175 to 293.203, inclusive, *and* section 1 of this act, do not apply to:
 - (a) Special elections to fill vacancies.
 - (b) The nomination of the officers of incorporated cities.
- (c) The nomination of district officers whose nomination is otherwise provided for by statute.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.185 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.185 *I*. The declaration of candidacy, the certificate of candidacy and the acceptance of candidacy must be filed during regular office hours, as follows:
- [1.] (a) For United States Senator, Representative in Congress, statewide offices, State Senators and Assemblymen to be elected from districts comprising more than one county, and all other offices whose districts comprise more than one county, with the Secretary of State.
- [2.] (b) For Representative in Congress and district offices voted for wholly within one county, State Senators and Assemblymen to be elected from districts comprising but one or part of one county, county and township officers, with the county clerk.
- 2. Within 48 hours after receipt of a declaration of candidacy, certificate of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for Representative in Congress, a district office voted for wholly within one county or State Senator or Assemblyman to be elected





from a district comprising but one or part of one county, a county clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of its receipt.

- **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.4687 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.4687 1. The Secretary of State shall maintain a website on the Internet for public information maintained, collected or compiled by the Secretary of State that relates to elections, which must include, without limitation:
- (a) The Voters' Bill of Rights required to be posted on his Internet website pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.2549;
- (b) The abstract of votes required to be posted on a website pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.388; and
- (c) All [reports on] links for the disclosure of campaign contributions [and expenditures submitted to the Secretary of State], expenditures and disposition of unspent or anonymous contributions required pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270, 294A.280, 294A.360 and 294A.362.] sections 11 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
- 2. The abstract of votes required to be maintained on the website pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 must be maintained in such a format as to permit the searching of the abstract of votes for specific information.
- 3. If the information required to be maintained by the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection 1 may be obtained by the public from a website on the Internet maintained by a county clerk or city clerk, the Secretary of State may provide a hyperlink to that website to comply with the provisions of subsection 1 with regard to that information.
- **Sec. 7.** Chapter 293C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
 - 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:
 - (a) An elected state or local public officer; or
- (b) A person appointed to serve as an elected state or local public officer for the remainder of an unexpired term to which another person was elected,
 - may not file a declaration or acceptance of candidacy for a different public office to be voted on at a primary city election or general city election, unless he first resigns his current elected state or local public office.
 - 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a public officer whose current term of state or local public office will end within 14 months after he files a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for the different state or local public office.





- **Sec. 8.** Chapter 294A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 9 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
- Sec. 9. 1. A person who is not under the direction or control of a candidate for office at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election, of a group of such candidates or of any person involved in the campaign of that candidate or group who makes an expenditure on behalf of the candidate or group which is not solicited or approved by the candidate or group shall, before making such an expenditure, register with the Secretary of State on a form provided by him.
- 2. A person or group of persons organized formally or informally who advocates the passage or defeat of a question or group of questions on the ballot at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election shall, before accepting a contribution or making an expenditure, register with the Secretary of State on a form provided by him.
- 3. The forms required pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 must include the name of the person or group and such other information deemed necessary by the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 10. Every person or group of persons who initiates or circulates a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a statewide measure proposed by initiative or referendum and who receives or expends money in an amount in excess of \$10,000 to support the initiation or circulation of the petition shall, immediately after receiving or expending \$10,000, register with the Secretary of State on a form provided by him. The form must indicate the name of the person or group and such other information deemed necessary by the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 11. 1. The Secretary of State shall create on his Internet website a link for each candidate for whom he is the appropriate filing officer pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 293.185, except United States Senator and Representative in Congress, and those candidates who must file a declaration or acceptance of candidacy with a county clerk pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 293.185, except Representative in Congress and candidates for county and township offices and current county and township officers, within 48 hours after the:
- (a) Candidate notifies the Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 294A.130, that he has opened a separate account pursuant to NRS 294A.130;
- 43 (b) Candidate files his declaration or acceptance of candidacy 44 at the Office of the Secretary of State; or





(c) Secretary of State receives notice from the county clerk pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 293.185 that a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy has been filed at the office of the county clerk,

whichever occurs earlier.

- 2. Each link created pursuant to subsection 1 must be:
- (a) Available to the candidate or his agent, through a secure connection, to enter on-line each campaign contribution accepted, expenditure made and the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contributions pursuant to the requirements of sections 16 and 17 of this act; and
 - (b) Accessible to the public to view:
- (1) Each campaign contribution accepted, expenditure made and the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contributions for that candidate, as entered by that candidate or his agent pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act; and
- (2) The balance of money available to the candidate in the account maintained pursuant to NRS 294A.130 on a particular date, including, without limitation, the most recent entry of a campaign contribution, expenditure or the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contribution as made by the candidate or his agent pursuant to section 16 or 17 of this act.
- 3. The Secretary of State shall maintain the link for a candidate until:
- (a) The Secretary receives notice that the separate account opened by that person pursuant to NRS 294A.130 has been closed;
- (b) The person has ceased to hold a public office and has not filed a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for a public office for three consecutive election cycles; or
- (c) For a candidate who has not previously held public office and is defeated, 6 months after the election at which the candidate was defeated,
 - whichever occurs earlier.
- 4. The calculation of the balance available to the candidate on a particular date, that is required to be accessible to the public to view pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2, must include only what is required to be entered by the candidate or his agent pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act. Contributions, dispositions and expenditures of an amount less than the minimum required pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act are not required to be included in this balance.
- Sec. 12. 1. The Secretary of State shall create on his Internet website a link for each:
- (a) Person who is not under the direction or control of a candidate for office at a primary election, primary city election,





general election or general city election, of a group of such candidates or of any person involved in the campaign of that candidate or group who makes an expenditure on behalf of the candidate or group which is not solicited or approved by the candidate or group within 48 hours after receipt of the registration of the person pursuant to section 9 of this act.

(b) Committee for political action within 48 hours after receipt

of its certificate of existence pursuant to NRS 294A.230.

(c) Political party within 48 hours after receipt of its certificate of existence pursuant to NRS 293.128 or 293.171.

- (d) Committee sponsored by a political party which makes an expenditure on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates within 48 hours after receipt of a certificate of existence or of an amended certificate of existence pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293.128 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.171, as applicable, indicating the existence or new creation of such a committee.
 - 2. Each link created pursuant to subsection 1 must be:
- (a) Available to the person, committee or political party, or agent thereof, through a secure connection, to enter on-line each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by the person, committee or political party pursuant to the requirements of section 18 of this act; and
- (b) Accessible to the public to view each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by that person, committee or political party, as entered by that person, committee or political part, or agent thereof, pursuant to section 18 of this act.
- 3. The Secretary of State shall maintain the link for each person, committee and political party described in subsection 1 until the person, committee or political party, or agent thereof, notifies the Secretary of State that the person, committee or political party has ceased to make expenditures on behalf of any candidate or group of candidates or until the Secretary of State determines that the person, committee or political party has ceased making such expenditures.
- Sec. 13. 1. The Secretary of State shall create on his Internet website a link for each:
- (a) Person or group of persons organized formally or informally who advocates the passage or defeat of a question or group of questions on the ballot at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election within 48 hours after receipt of the registration of the person or group of persons pursuant to section 9 of this act.
- (b) Person or group of persons who initiates or circulates a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a





statewide measure proposed by an initiative or a referendum and who receives or expends money in an amount in excess of \$10,000 to support the initiation or circulation of the petition within 48 hours after receipt of the registration of the person or group of persons pursuant to section 10 of this act.

2. Each link created pursuant to subsection 1 must be:

- (a) Available to the person or group of persons, or agent thereof, through a secure connection, to enter on-line each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by the person or group of persons pursuant to the requirements of section 19 of this act; and
- (b) Accessible to the public to view each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by that person or group of persons, as entered by that person or group of persons, or agent thereof, pursuant to section 19 of this act.

3. The Secretary of State shall maintain the link for each person or group of persons described in subsection 1 until:

(a) The person or group of persons, or agent thereof, notifies the Secretary of State that the person or group of persons has ceased to advocate the passage or defeat of a question or group of questions on a ballot or to initiate or circulate a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a statewide measure proposed by an initiative or a referendum; or

(b) The Secretary of State determines that the person or group of persons has ceased making such expenditures.

Sec. 14. 1. The Secretary of State shall create on his Internet website a link for each committee for the recall of a public officer within 48 hours after receipt of the registration of the committee pursuant to NRS 294A.250.

- 2. Each link created pursuant to subsection 1 must be:
- (a) Available to the agent of the committee, through a secure connection, to enter on-line each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by the committee pursuant to the requirements of section 20 of this act; and
- (b) Accessible to the public to view each campaign contribution accepted and expenditure made by that committee, as entered by the agent of the committee, pursuant to section 20 of this act.
- 3. The Secretary of State shall maintain the link for each committee for the recall of a public officer until:
- (a) If the petition for the purpose of recalling a public officer is not filed before the expiration of the notice of intent, 30 days after the expiration of the notice of intent.





- (b) If a court does not order a special election for the recall of the public officer, 30 days after the court determines that an election will not be held.
- (c) If a special election to recall a public officer is held, 30 days after that election.
- Sec. 15. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, each county clerk and city clerk shall create on the Internet website for his county or city a link for each candidate for whom he is the appropriate filing officer within 48 hours after the candidate:
- (a) Notifies the county clerk or city clerk that he has opened a separate account pursuant to NRS 294A.130; or
- (b) Files his declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy with the clerk,
- **→** whichever occurs earlier.

- 2. Each link created pursuant to subsection 1 must be:
- (a) Available to the candidate or his agent, through a secure connection, to enter on-line each campaign contribution accepted, expenditure made and the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contributions by the candidate pursuant to the requirements of sections 16 and 17 of this act; and
 - (b) Accessible to the public to view:
- (1) Each campaign contribution accepted, expenditure made and the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contributions for that candidate, as entered by that candidate or his agent pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act; and
- (2) The balance of money available to the candidate in the account maintained pursuant to NRS 294A.130 on a particular date, including, without limitation, the most recent entry of a campaign contribution, expenditure or the disposition of any unspent or anonymous contribution as entered by the candidate or his agent pursuant to section 16 or 17 of this act.
- 33 3. Each county clerk and city clerk shall maintain the link for a candidate until:
 - (a) The clerk receives notice that the separate account opened by that person pursuant to NRS 294A.130 has been closed;
 - (b) The person has ceased to hold a public office and has not filed a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for a city or county public office for three consecutive election cycles; or
 - (c) For a candidate who has not previously held public office and is defeated, 6 months after the election at which the candidate was defeated,
 - **→** whichever occurs earlier.
 - 4. The calculation of the balance available to the candidate on a particular date, that is required to be accessible to the public





to view pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2, must include only what is required to be entered by the candidate or his agent pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act. Contributions, dispositions and expenditures of an amount less than the minimum required pursuant to sections 16 and 17 of this act are not required to be included in this balance.

5. County clerks must not create a link for the following candidates or current public officers that filed declarations of candidacy or acceptances of candidacy with him pursuant to

paragraph (b) subsection 1 of NRS 293.185:

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(a) Representatives in Congress and district offices voted for wholly within one county: and

(b) State Senators and Assemblymen to be elected from districts comprising but one or part of one county.

Sec. 16. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each candidate or his agent shall, within 48 hours after the candidate:

- (a) Accepts a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions from that same contributor, exceeds \$100; or
- (b) Makes an expenditure in excess of \$100 in support of his campaign,

➡ disclose that amount and the name and address of the person who made the contribution or the person to whom the expenditure was distributed by entering the information, through the secure connection, on the link of the candidate on the Internet website of the Secretary of State or the county clerk or city clerk, as appropriate.

- 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person until 5 days after he opens a separate account for his campaign contributions in accordance with the provisions of NRS 294A.130. On or before the sixth day after the candidate opens the account, he or his agent shall enter, through the secure connection, on the link of the candidate on the appropriate Internet website each contribution accepted in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions accepted from that same contributor, exceeds \$100 and each expenditure in excess of \$100 made before that day.
- Sec. 17. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each candidate or his agent shall, within 48 hours after disposing of an amount in excess of \$100 of unspent contributions pursuant to NRS 294A.160 or disposing of a contribution of \$100 or more from an anonymous or unidentifiable contributor pursuant to NRS 294A.190, disclose that amount and the name of the person or entity to whom the amount was distributed by entering the





information, through the secure connection, on the link of the candidate on the Internet website of the Secretary of State or the

county clerk or city clerk, as appropriate.

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2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person until 5 days after he opens a separate account for his campaign contributions in accordance with the provisions of NRS 294A.130. On or before the sixth day after the candidate opens the account, the candidate or his agent shall enter separately, through the secure connection, on the link of the candidate on the appropriate Internet website, the disposition of any unspent contributions in an amount in excess of \$100 or of any contributions from an anonymous or unidentifiable contributor of \$100 or more made before that day.

- Sec. 18. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each person who is not under the direction or control of a candidate for office at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election, of a group of such candidates or of any person involved in the campaign of that candidate or group who makes an expenditure on behalf of the candidate or group which is not solicited or approved by the candidate or group and each committee for political action, political party and committee sponsored by a political party which makes an expenditure on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates shall, within 48 hours after the person, committee or party:
- (a) Accepts a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from a 26 27 contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions from that same contributor, exceeds \$100; or 28

(b) Makes an expenditure in excess of \$100 on behalf of the

candidate or group of candidates,

- *➡* disclose that amount and the name and address of the person who made the contribution or the person to whom the expenditure was distributed by entering the information, through the secure connection, on the link of the person, committee or party on the Internet website of the Secretary of State.
- 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person, committee or party described in subsection 1 until 5 days after:
- (a) The person registers with the Secretary of State pursuant to section 9 of this act:
- (b) The committee for political action registers pursuant to NRS 294A.230:
 - (c) The political party files its certificate of existence pursuant to NRS 293.128 or 293.171; or
- (d) The political party has filed an amended certificate of 44 existence pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293.128 or subsection 3





of NRS 293.171, indicating the new creation of a committee sponsored by the political party.

3. On or before the sixth day after the appropriate registration or filing, the person, committee or party, or its agent, shall enter separately, through the secure connection, on the link of the person, committee or party on the Internet website of the Secretary of State, each contribution accepted in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions accepted from that same contributor, exceeds \$100 and each expenditure in excess of \$100 made before that day.

Sec. 19. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, each person or group of persons organized formally or informally who advocates the passage or defeat of a question or group of questions on the ballot at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election, or agent thereof, shall, within 48 hours after the person or group:

(a) Accepts a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions from that same contributor, exceeds \$100; or

(b) Makes an expenditure in excess of \$100 on behalf of or

against the question or group of questions,

disclose that amount and the name and address of the person who made the contribution or the person to whom the expenditure was distributed by entering the information, through the secure connection, on the link of the person or group on the Internet website of the Secretary of State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, each person or group of persons who initiates or circulates a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a statewide measure proposed by initiative or referendum and who receives or expends money in an amount in excess of \$10,000 to support the initiation or circulation of the petition, or agent thereof, shall, within 48 hours after the person or group:

33 hours after the person or group: 34 (a) Accepts a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from a 35 contributor or a contribution which, when added to other 36 contributions from that same contributor, exceeds \$100; and

(b) Makes an expenditure in excess of \$100 to support the initiation or circulation of the potition

initiation or circulation of the petition,

ightharpoonup disclose that amount and the name and address of the person who made the contribution or the person to whom the expenditure was distributed by entering the information, through the secure connection, on the link of the person or group on the Internet website of the Secretary of State.

3. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person until

5 days after the person or group of persons:





- (a) Organized formally or informally who advocates the passage or defeat of a question or group of questions on the ballot at a primary election, primary city election, general election or general city election registers with the Secretary of State pursuant to section 9 of this act; or
- (b) Who initiates or circulates a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a statewide measure proposed by initiative or referendum and who receives or expends money in an amount in excess of \$10,000 to support such initiation or circulation registers with the Secretary of State pursuant to section 10 of this act.
- On or before the sixth day after the appropriate registration, the person or group of persons, or agent thereof, shall enter separately, through the secure connection, on the link of the person or group of persons on the Internet website of the Secretary of State, each contribution accepted in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions accepted from that same contributor, exceeds \$100 and each expenditure in excess of \$100 made before that day. Upon request, the Secretary of State may grant an extension to a person or group of persons who initiates or circulates a petition for a constitutional amendment or a petition for a statewide measure proposed by initiative or referendum and who received or expended money in excess of \$10,000 to comply with the requirement to disclose separately each such contribution accepted and such expenditure made before that day if he determines that the \$10,000 was accepted or expended in a substantial number of separate contributions or expenditures in excess of \$100.
- Sec. 20. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each committee for the recall of a public officer, or agent thereof, shall, within 48 hours after the committee:
- (a) Accepts a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution which, when added to other contributions from that same contributor, exceeds \$100; or
 - (b) Makes an expenditure in excess of \$100,
- isclose that amount and the name and address of the person who made the contribution or the person to whom the expenditure was distributed by entering the information, through the secure connection, on the link of the committee on the Internet website of the Secretary of State.
- 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a committee until 5 days after the committee has registered with the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 294A.250. On or before the sixth day after the registration, the committee, or agent thereof, shall enter





separately, through the secure connection, on the link of the committee on the Internet website of the Secretary of State, each contribution accepted in excess of \$100 from a contributor or a contribution, which when added to other contributions accepted from that same contributor, exceeds \$100 and each expenditure in excess of \$100 made before that day.

Sec. 21. NRS 294A.0055 is hereby amended to read as follows:

294A.0055 1. "Committee for political action" means any group of natural persons or entities that solicits or receives contributions from any other person, group or entity and:

- (a) Makes or intends to make contributions to candidates or other persons; or
 - (b) Makes or intends to make expenditures,
- designed to affect the outcome of any primary, general or special election or question on the ballot.
 - 2. "Committee for political action" does not include:
- (a) An organization made up of legislative members of a political party whose primary purpose is to provide support for their political efforts.
- (b) An entity solely because it provides goods or services to a candidate or committee in the regular course of its business at the same price that would be provided to the general public.
 - (c) An individual natural person.
- (d) An individual corporation or other business entity who has filed articles of incorporation or other documentation of organization with the Secretary of State pursuant to title 7 of NRS.
 - (e) A labor union.

- (f) A personal campaign committee or the personal representative of a candidate who receives contributions or makes expenditures that are [reported] disclosed as campaign contributions or expenditures by the candidate.
 - (g) A committee for the recall of a public officer.
 - Sec. 22. NRS 294A.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 294A.130 1. Every candidate for state, district, county, city or township office shall, not later than 1 week after he receives minimum campaign contributions of \$100, open and maintain a separate account in a financial institution for the deposit of any campaign contributions he receives. The candidate shall not commingle the money in the account with money collected for other purposes. Not later than 3 days after opening the separate account, the candidate shall notify the appropriate filing officer for the office which he seeks, unless he is a candidate for a district office voted for wholly within one county or a State Senator or Assemblyman to be elected from a district comprising but one or





part of one county, in which case, he shall notify the Secretary of State.

- 2. The candidate may close the separate account:
- (a) If he was a candidate in a special election [,] and lost, after that election;
- (b) If he lost in the primary election, after the primary election; or
- (c) If he won the primary election {,} and lost in the general election, after the general election,
- → and as soon as all payments of money committed have been made.
- 3. A candidate who is elected to public office shall maintain the separate account during his tenure in office and may close the separate account after he ceases to hold public office and all payments of money committed have been made.
- 4. Not later than 3 days after closing the separate account, the candidate shall notify the appropriate filing officer, unless he is a candidate for a district office voted for wholly within one county or a State Senator or Assemblyman to be elected from a district comprising but one or part of one county, in which case, he shall notify the Secretary of State.
 - **Sec. 23.** NRS 294A.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 294A.320 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, it is unlawful for any person to publish any material or information relating to an election, candidate or any question on a ballot unless that material or information contains:
- (a) The name and mailing or street address of each person who has paid for or who is responsible for paying for the publication; and
- (b) A statement that each such person has paid for or is responsible for paying for the publication.
 - 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply:
 - (a) To any candidate or to the political party of that candidate which pays for or is responsible for paying for any billboard, sign or other form of advertisement which refers only to that candidate and in which the candidate's name is prominently displayed.
 - (b) If the material is expressly approved and paid for by the candidate and the cost of preparation and publishing has been [reported] disclosed by the candidate as a campaign contribution pursuant to [NRS 294A.120.] section 16 of this act.
 - (c) To a natural person who acts independently and not in cooperation with or pursuant to any direction from a business or social organization, nongovernmental legal entity or governmental entity.
- 3. Any identification that complies with the requirements of the Communications Act of 1934 and the regulations adopted pursuant





to the act shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of this section.

4. As used in this section:

- (a) "Material" means any printed or written matter or any photograph.
 - (b) "Publish" means the act of:
- (1) Printing, posting, broadcasting, mailing or otherwise disseminating; or
- (2) Causing to be printed, posted, broadcasted, mailed or otherwise disseminated,
- → any material or information to the public.

Sec. 24. NRS 294A.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

294A.350 [1.] Every candidate for state, district, county, municipal or township office shall [file the reports of] disclose campaign contributions and [expenses] expenditures as required by [NRS 294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.360,] sections 16 and 17 of this act, even though he:

- [(a)] 1. Withdraws his candidacy;
- (b) Receives no campaign contributions;
- 20 (c) Has no campaign expenses;
 - (d) 2. Is removed from the ballot by court order; or
 - **[(e)]** 3. Is the subject of a petition to recall and the special election is not held.
 - [2. A candidate who withdraws his candidacy pursuant to NRS 293.202 may file simultaneously all the reports of campaign contributions and expenses required by NRS 294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.360, so long as each report is filed on or before the last day for filing the respective report pursuant to NRS 294A.120, 294A.200 or 294A.360.1
 - **Sec. 25.** NRS 294A.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 294A.380 1. The Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate regulations, prescribe forms in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and take such other actions as are necessary for the implementation and effective administration of the provisions of this chapter.
 - 2. For the purposes of implementing and administering the provisions of this chapter regulating committees for political action:
 - (a) The Secretary of State shall, in determining whether an entity or group is a committee for political action, consider a group's or entity's division or separation into units, sections or smaller groups only if it appears that such division or separation was for a purpose other than for avoiding the **[reporting] disclosure** requirements of this chapter.
 - (b) The Secretary of State shall, in determining whether an entity or group is a committee for political action, disregard any





action taken by a group or entity that would otherwise constitute a committee for political action if it appears such action is taken for the purpose of avoiding the [reporting] disclosure requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 26. NRS 294A.390 is hereby amended to read as follows: 294A.390 The officer from whom a candidate or entity requests a form for:

1. A declaration of candidacy;

- 2. An acceptance of candidacy; or
- 3. The registration of a committee for political action pursuant to NRS 294A.230 or a committee for the recall of a public officer pursuant to NRS 294A.250, For
 - 4. The reporting of campaign contributions, expenses or expenditures pursuant to NRS 294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270, 294A.280 or 294A.360,]
- ⇒ shall furnish the candidate *or entity* with the necessary forms for [reporting] *filing or registering* and copies of the regulations adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to this chapter. An explanation of the applicable provisions of NRS 294A.100, [294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270, 294A.280 or 294A.360] 294A.130, 294A.160, 294A.190 and sections 16 to 20, inclusive, of this act relating to the making, accepting [or reporting] and disclosing of campaign contributions, expenses or expenditures and the disposition of unspent and anonymous contributions, and the penalties for a violation of those provisions as set forth in NRS 294A.100 or 294A.420 must be developed by the Secretary of State and provided upon request. The candidate or entity shall acknowledge receipt of the material.

Sec. 27. NRS 294A.420 is hereby amended to read as follows: 294A.420 1. If the Secretary of State receives information that a person or entity that is subject to the provisions of [NRS 294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.230, 294A.270, 294A.280 or 294A.360] sections 16 to 20, inclusive, of this act has not , in a timely manner, entered the required information on the link on the appropriate Internet website or has not filed a [report or] form for a new or amended certificate of existence or for registration pursuant to [the applicable provisions of those sections,] NRS 293.128, 293.171, 294A.230 or 294A.250, or section 9 or 10 of this act, the Secretary of State may, after giving notice to that person or entity, cause the appropriate proceedings to be instituted in the First Judicial District Court.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person or entity that violates an applicable provision of NRS 294A.112,





[294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.130, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.160, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.230, 294A.270, 294A.280, 2 **294A.130**, **294A.160**, **294A.230**, **294A.250**, 294A.300, 294A.310, 3 294A.320 or [294A.360] section 9, 10, or 16 to 20, inclusive, of this 4 5 act is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each 6 violation and payment of court costs and attorney's fees. The civil penalty must be recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada by the Secretary of State in the First Judicial District Court and deposited by the Secretary of State for credit to the State General Fund in the bank designated by the State 10 11 Treasurer.

- 3. [If a civil penalty is imposed because a person or entity has reported its contributions, expenses or expenditures after the date the report is due, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amount of the civil penalty is:
- 16 (a) If the report is not more than 7 days late, \$25 for each day 17 the report is late.
- 18 (b) If the report is more than 7 days late but not more than 15 days late, \$50 for each day the report is late.
- 20 (c) If the report is more than 15 days late, \$100 for each day the 21 report is late.
 - A civil penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection against a public officer who by law is not entitled to receive compensation for his office or a candidate for such an office must not exceed a total of \$100 if the public officer or candidate received no contributions and made no expenditures during the relevant reporting periods.
 - —4.] For good cause shown, the Secretary of State may waive a civil penalty that would otherwise be imposed pursuant to this section. If the Secretary of State waives a civil penalty pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary of State shall:
 - (a) Create a record which sets forth that the civil penalty has been waived and describes the circumstances that constitute the good cause shown; and
 - (b) Ensure that the record created pursuant to paragraph (a) is available for review by the general public.
 - **Sec. 28.** NRS 281.501 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 281.501 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, 3 or 4, a public officer may vote upon a matter if the benefit or detriment accruing to him as a result of the decision either individually or in a representative capacity as a member of a general business, profession, occupation or group is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group.
 - 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, in addition to the requirements of the code of ethical standards, a public officer



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shall not vote upon or advocate the passage or failure of, but may otherwise participate in the consideration of, a matter with respect to which the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in his situation would be materially affected by:

- (a) His acceptance of a gift or loan;
- (b) His pecuniary interest; or

- (c) His commitment in a private capacity to the interests of others.
- → It must be presumed that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by his pecuniary interest or his commitment in a private capacity to the interests of others where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to him or to the other persons whose interests to which the member is committed in a private capacity is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group. The presumption set forth in this subsection does not affect the applicability of the requirements set forth in subsection 4 relating to the disclosure of the pecuniary interest or commitment in a private capacity to the interests of others.
- 3. In a county whose population is 400,000 or more, a member of a county or city planning commission shall not vote upon or advocate the passage or failure of, but may otherwise participate in the consideration of, a matter with respect to which the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in his situation would be materially affected by:
 - (a) His acceptance of a gift or loan;
 - (b) His direct pecuniary interest; or
- (c) His commitment to a member of his household or a person who is related to him by blood, adoption or marriage within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity.
- → It must be presumed that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person would not be materially affected by his direct pecuniary interest or his commitment described in paragraph (c) where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to him or to the other persons whose interests to which the member is committed is not greater than that accruing to any other member of the general business, profession, occupation or group. The presumption set forth in this subsection does not affect the applicability of the requirements set forth in subsection 4 relating to the disclosure of the direct pecuniary interest or commitment.
- 4. A public officer or employee shall not approve, disapprove, vote, abstain from voting or otherwise act upon any matter:
 - (a) Regarding which he has accepted a gift or loan;
- (b) Which would reasonably be affected by his commitment in a private capacity to the interest of others; or





(c) In which he has a pecuniary interest,

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→ without disclosing sufficient information concerning the gift, loan, commitment or interest to inform the public of the potential effect of the action or abstention upon the person who provided the gift or loan, upon the person to whom he has a commitment, or upon his interest. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, such a disclosure must be made at the time the matter is considered. If the officer or employee is a member of a body which makes decisions, he shall make the disclosure in public to the Chairman and other members of the body. If the officer or employee is not a member of such a body and holds an appointive office, he shall make the disclosure to the supervisory head of his organization or, if he holds an elective office, to the general public in the area from which he is elected. This subsection does not require a public officer to disclose any campaign contributions that the public officer [reported] disclosed pursuant to [NRS 294A.120 or 294A.125] section 16 of *this act* in a timely manner.

- 5. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 241.0355, if a public officer declares to the body or committee in which the vote is to be taken that he will abstain from voting because of the requirements of this section, the necessary quorum to act upon and the number of votes necessary to act upon the matter, as fixed by any statute, ordinance or rule, is reduced as though the member abstaining were not a member of the body or committee.
- 6. After a member of the Legislature makes a disclosure pursuant to subsection 4, he may file with the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau a written statement of his disclosure. The written statement must designate the matter to which the disclosure applies. After a Legislator files a written statement pursuant to this subsection, he is not required to disclose orally his interest when the matter is further considered by the Legislature or any committee thereof. A written statement of disclosure is a public record and must be made available for inspection by the public during the regular office hours of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.
- 7. The provisions of this section do not, under any circumstances:
- (a) Prohibit a member of the Legislative Branch from requesting or introducing a legislative measure; or
- (b) Require a member of the Legislative Branch to take any particular action before or while requesting or introducing a legislative measure.
- 8. As used in this section, "commitment in a private capacity to the interests of others" means a commitment to a person:
 - (a) Who is a member of his household;





- (b) Who is related to him by blood, adoption or marriage within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;
 - (c) Who employs him or a member of his household;
 - (d) With whom he has a substantial and continuing business relationship; or
- (e) Any other commitment or relationship that is substantially similar to a commitment or relationship described in this subsection.
- Sec. 29. NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270, 294A.280, 294A.360, 294A.362, 294A.365, 294A.373, 294A.382 294A.400 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 30. 1. The program by which links are created on the appropriate Internet websites pursuant to the provisions of sections 11 to 15, inclusive, of this act must be operable not later than January 1, 2008.
- Each existing political party that is sponsoring a committee on October 1, 2007, shall file its amended certificate of existence, indicating the existence of a committee sponsored by the political party with the Secretary of State on or before December 31, 2007.
- 3. Each candidate who, on December 31, 2007, is subject to the requirements of NRS 294A.120 and 294A.200 and each candidate for a city office who is subject to the requirements of these sections through the operation of NRS 294A.360 shall:
- (a) File the reports required by subsection 1 of NRS 294A.120, NRS 294A.125 and subsection 1 of NRS 294A.200, as applicable, on or before January 15, 2008, with the appropriate filing officer;
- (b) At the same time as the report filed pursuant to paragraph (a), report to that officer, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, the amount of money that was available to him, as of December 31, 2007, in his separate account opened pursuant to NRS 294A.130 as of December 31, 2007; and
- (c) Begin disclosing contributions accepted, expenditures made 33 and dispositions of unspent and anonymous contributions pursuant 34 to sections 16 and 17 of this act on January 1, 2008.
 - A county clerk who receives the report pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 from a candidate for a district office voted for wholly within one county or a State Senator or Assemblyman to be elected from a district comprising but one or part of one county shall immediately forward that report to the Secretary of State.
 - 5. Any person who opens a separate account pursuant to NRS 294A.130 in the calendar year 2007 and is not subject to the requirements of NRS 294A.120 and 294A.200 or 294A.125 shall, not later than January 15, 2008, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, report the amount of money available to him, as



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of December 31, 2007, in that separate account to the appropriate filing officer or, if he is a candidate for a district office voted for wholly within one county or a State Senator or Assemblyman to be elected from a district comprising but one or part of one county, to the Secretary of State.

- 6. Each person or group described in section 9 or 10 of this act that exists or makes expenditures or advocates the passage or defeat of a ballot question, as indicated in those sections on October 1, 2007, shall register with the Secretary of State, on or before December 31, 2007.
- 7. The persons, groups, committees and political parties that, on December 31, 2007, are subject to the requirements of NRS 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270 or 294A.280 shall:
- (a) File the reports required by subsection 1 of NRS 294A.140, NRS 294A.150, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.270 and 294A.280 on or before January 15, 2008; and
- (b) Begin disclosing contributions accepted and expenditures made pursuant to sections 18, 19 and 20 of this act on January 1, 2008.
- **Sec. 31.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.
 - **Sec. 32.** 1. This section and sections 11 to 15, inclusive, 30 and 31 of this act become effective on October 1, 2007, for purposes of creating the appropriate links and any computer programs necessary for such links to operate on the appropriate Internet websites, as required by those sections, and on January 1, 2008, for all other purposes.
- 2. Sections 1 to 10, inclusive, and 16 to 28, inclusive, of this act become effective on January 1, 2008.
- 32 3. Section 29 of this act becomes effective on January 16, 33 2008.

LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

294A.120 Candidate to report contributions received: Candidates subject to requirement; deadline; period covered; form; filing; details to be included in report.

294A.125 Candidate who receives contributions in excess of \$10,000 in year before year of election required to report





contributions received and expenditures made before year of election; procedure for reporting; contents of report.

294A.128 Candidate required to report loan guaranteed by third party, forgiveness of loan or written commitment for contribution; procedure for reporting; contents of report.

294A.140 Certain persons and political organizations that make expenditures on behalf of candidate or group of candidates to report contributions received; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.150 Person or group of persons advocating passage or defeat of question on ballot and person or group of persons initiating or circulating petition to report contributions received; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.200 Candidate to report campaign expenses: Candidates subject to requirement; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.210 Certain persons and political organizations that make expenditures on behalf of candidate or group of candidates to report expenditures; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.220 Person or group of persons advocating passage or defeat of question on ballot and person or group of persons initiating or circulating petition to report expenditures; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.270 Committee to report contributions received or made; deadline; period covered; form; filing; details to be included in report.

294A.280 Committee to report expenditures; deadline; period covered; form; filing.

294A.360 Time when candidate for city office must file reports.

294A.362 Candidate to report campaign contributions in form of goods and services provided in kind; period covered; form.

294A.365 Categorization of expenditures and expenses in reports required; categories for use in reports.

294A.373 Universal form for reporting of contributions, expenditures and expenses: Design by Secretary of State; limitation; approval by Legislative Commission; copies.

294A.382 Secretary of State prohibited from requesting or requiring listing of certain small expenditures or campaign expenses.





294A.400 Compilation by Secretary of State of reported contributions, expenditures and loans; public inspection.





