

SENATE BILL NO. 548—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises various provisions relating to public offices.
(BDR 23-1434)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public office; revising the provisions governing filing of financial disclosure forms by public officers; requiring certain statements advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for state or local office and published by persons receiving compensation from the candidates, opponents of the candidates or certain political groups to contain disclosures of certain information regarding that compensation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law requires certain appointed and elected public officers and
- 2 candidates for public office to file financial disclosure statements. (NRS 281.559,
- 3 281.561) **Sections 1 and 2** of this bill clarify that each disclosure form is intended
- 4 to disclose information for the full calendar year immediately preceding the
- 5 deadline for filing the forms.
- 6 Existing law provides for a number of required and prohibited acts relating to
- 7 election campaigns. (NRS 294A.290-294A.343) **Section 3** of this bill requires
- 8 certain statements advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for state or local
- 9 office and published by persons receiving compensation from the candidates,
- 10 opponents of the candidates or certain political groups to include a disclosure of
- 11 certain information regarding that compensation.



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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 281.559 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 281.559 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if a
3 public officer who was appointed to the office for which he is
4 serving is entitled to receive annual compensation of \$6,000 or more
5 for serving in that office, he shall file with the Commission a
6 statement of financial disclosure, as follows:

7 (a) A public officer appointed to fill the unexpired term of an
8 elected or appointed public officer shall file a statement of financial
9 disclosure within 30 days after his appointment.

10 (b) Each public officer appointed to fill an office shall file a
11 statement of financial disclosure on or before January 15 of each
12 year of the term, including the year the term expires.

13 ↪ *The statement must disclose the required information for the*
14 *full calendar year immediately preceding the date of filing.*

15 2. If a person is serving in a public office for which he is
16 required to file a statement pursuant to subsection 1, he may use the
17 statement he files for that initial office to satisfy the requirements of
18 subsection 1 for every other public office to which he is appointed
19 and in which he is also serving.

20 3. A judicial officer who is appointed to fill the unexpired term
21 of a predecessor or to fill a newly created judgeship shall file a
22 statement of financial disclosure pursuant to the requirements of
23 Canon 4I of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct. Such a statement
24 of financial disclosure must include, without limitation, all
25 information required to be included in a statement of financial
26 disclosure pursuant to NRS 281.571.

27 4. The Commission shall provide written notification to the
28 Secretary of State of the public officers who failed to file the
29 statements of financial disclosure required by subsection 1 or who
30 failed to file those statements in a timely manner. The notice must
31 be sent within 30 days after the deadlines set forth in subsection 1
32 and must include:

33 (a) The name of each public officer who failed to file his
34 statement of financial disclosure within the period before the notice
35 is sent;

36 (b) The name of each public officer who filed his statement of
37 financial disclosure after the deadlines set forth in subsection 1 but
38 within the period before the notice is sent;

39 (c) For the first notice sent after the public officer filed his
40 statement of financial disclosure, the name of each public officer
41 who filed his statement of financial disclosure after the deadlines set



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1 forth in subsection 1 but within the period before the notice is sent;
2 and

3 (d) For each public officer listed in paragraph (c), the date on
4 which the statement of financial disclosure was due and the date on
5 which the public officer filed the statement.

6 5. In addition to the notice provided pursuant to subsection 4,
7 the Commission shall notify the Secretary of State of each public
8 officer who files a statement of financial disclosure more than 30
9 days after the deadlines set forth in subsection 1. The notice must
10 include the information described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of
11 subsection 4.

12 6. A statement of financial disclosure shall be deemed to be
13 filed with the Commission:

14 (a) On the date that it was mailed if it was sent by certified mail;
15 or

16 (b) On the date that it was received by the Commission if the
17 statement was sent by regular mail, transmitted by facsimile
18 machine or electronic means, or delivered personally.

19 **Sec. 2.** NRS 281.561 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 281.561 1. ~~Each~~ *Except as otherwise provided in*
21 *subsection 2, each* candidate for public office who will be entitled
22 to receive annual compensation of \$6,000 or more for serving in the
23 office that he is seeking and, except as otherwise provided in
24 subsection ~~2~~ 3, each public officer who was elected to the office
25 for which he is serving shall file with the Secretary of State a
26 statement of financial disclosure, as follows:

27 (a) A candidate for nomination, election or reelection to public
28 office shall file a statement of financial disclosure no later than the
29 10th day after the last day to qualify as a candidate for the office;
30 and

31 (b) Each public officer shall file a statement of financial
32 disclosure on or before January 15 of each year of the term,
33 including the year the term expires.

34 *↪ The statement must disclose the required information for the*
35 *full calendar year immediately preceding the date of filing.*

36 2. *If a candidate for public office is serving in a public office*
37 *for which he is required to file a statement pursuant to paragraph*
38 *(b) of subsection 1 or subsection 1 of NRS 281.559, he need not*
39 *file the statement required by subsection 1 for any calendar year*
40 *for which he previously filed a statement.*

41 3. A person elected pursuant to NRS 548.285 to the office of
42 supervisor of a conservation district is not required to file a
43 statement of financial disclosure relative to that office pursuant to
44 subsection 1.



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~~13.1~~ 4. A candidate for judicial office or a judicial officer shall file a statement of financial disclosure pursuant to the requirements of Canon 4I of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct. Such a statement of financial disclosure must include, without limitation, all information required to be included in a statement of financial disclosure pursuant to NRS 281.571.

~~14.1~~ 5. A statement of financial disclosure shall be deemed to be filed with the Secretary of State:

(a) On the date that it was mailed if it was sent by certified mail; or

(b) On the date that it was received by the Secretary of State if the statement was sent by regular mail, transmitted by facsimile machine or electronic means, or delivered personally.

~~15.1~~ 6. The statement of financial disclosure filed pursuant to this section must be filed on the form prescribed by the Commission pursuant to NRS 281.471.

~~16.1~~ 7. The Secretary of State shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures for the submission of statements of financial disclosure filed pursuant to this section, maintain files of such statements and make the statements available for public inspection.

Sec. 3. Chapter 294A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A statement which:

(a) Is published within 60 days before a general election, general city election or special election or 30 days before a primary election or primary city election;

(b) Expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office; and

(c) Is published by a person who receives compensation from the candidate, an opponent of the candidate, or a person, party or committee required to report expenditures pursuant to NRS 294A.210,

↪ must contain a disclosure of the fact that the person receives compensation pursuant to paragraph (c) and the name of the person, party or committee providing that compensation.

2. As used in this section, "publish" means the act of:

(a) Printing, posting, broadcasting, mailing or otherwise disseminating; or

(b) Causing to be printed, posted, broadcasted, mailed or otherwise disseminated.

