By Senator Simmons

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to campaign financing; amending s. 106.011, F.S.; redefining the terms "electioneering communication, " "electioneering communications organization," and "political committee" to conform to changes made by the act; defining the term "independent electioneering communication"; amending s. 106.03, F.S.; revising the threshold amount for expenditures for which an electioneering communications organization must file a statement of organization; requiring a corporate or business entity that makes expenditures exceeding a certain amount for political activities to file a statement of information within a certain timeframe; revising required components of a statement of organization filed by political committees or electioneering communications organizations; prescribing requirements for a statement of information filed by a corporate or business entity; requiring specified individuals affiliated with a committee, an organization, or a corporate or business entity to certify the correctness of each filed statement; providing a penalty; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss. 106.07 and 106.0703, F.S.; expanding reporting requirements for candidates, political committees, and electioneering communications organizations; establishing reporting requirements for specified corporate or business entities making certain political expenditures; requiring specified

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individuals affiliated with the corporate or business entity to certify the correctness of each report; providing a penalty; amending s. 106.0705, F.S.; requiring registration information to be filed electronically using the Division of Elections' electronic filing system; requiring a corporate or business entity required to register or file reports with the division to use the division's electronic filing system; providing that specified individuals affiliated with a corporate or business entity are subject to penalties for the willful filing of an incorrect statement or report; revising the division's rulemaking authority to conform to changes made by the act; creating s. 106.0708, F.S.; requiring the division to implement and maintain an electronic campaign finance database; specifying minimum requirements and capabilities of the database; requiring the division to adopt rules; amending s. 106.071, F.S.; revising the threshold amount for reporting certain independent expenditures and electioneering communications; requiring additional information to be included in reports filed by certain persons making independent expenditures or expenditures for electioneering communications; modifying the applicability of a provision requiring disclaimers in a political advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure; amending s. 106.08, F.S.; restricting the amount of funds that a political committee may transfer or contribute to a political

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party or an affiliated party committee; prohibiting a political committee or an electioneering communications organization from accepting a transfer of funds or a contribution exceeding a certain amount from specified entities; providing exceptions; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 106.143, F.S.; revising requirements for disclaimers for political advertisements, to conform; amending s. 106.1439, F.S.; revising requirements for disclaimers for electioneering communications, to conform; requiring a candidate to approve in advance an electioneering communication offered on his or her behalf; requiring the candidate to provide a written statement of authorization for each communication distributed; requiring a person making an independent electioneering communication to provide a written statement for each communication distributed; providing penalties; amending s. 106.147, F.S.; revising disclosure requirements for telephone solicitation; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 106.25, F.S.; removing certain restrictions regarding complaints received, and the investigation thereof, by the Florida Elections Commission; amending s. 106.29, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsections (8) and (9) and present subsection

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(16) of section 106.011, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (12) through (18) of that section are renumbered as subsections (13) through (19), respectively, and a new subsection (12) is added to that section, to read:

106.011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (8) (a) "Electioneering communication" means communication that is publicly distributed by a television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, or telephone and that:
- 1. Refers to or depicts a clearly identified candidate for office without expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate but that is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate;
- 2. Is made within 30 days before a primary or special primary election or 60 days before any other election for the office sought by the candidate; and
- 3. Is targeted to the relevant electorate in the geographic area the candidate would represent if elected.
- (b) The term "electioneering communication" does not include:
- 1. A communication disseminated through a means of communication other than a television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, telephone, or statement or depiction by an organization, in existence before the time during which a candidate named or depicted qualifies for that election, made in

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that organization's newsletter, which newsletter is distributed only to members of that organization.

- 2. A communication in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of a radio station, television station, cable television system, or satellite system, unless the facilities are owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. A news story distributed through the facilities owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate may nevertheless be exempt if it represents a bona fide news account communicated through a licensed broadcasting facility and the communication is part of a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts that give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the area.
- 3. A communication that constitutes a public debate or forum that includes at least two opposing candidates for an office or one advocate and one opponent of an issue, or that solely promotes such a debate or forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum, provided that:
 - a. The staging organization is either:
- (I) A charitable organization that does not make other electioneering communications and does not otherwise support or oppose any political candidate or political party; or
- (II) A newspaper, radio station, television station, or other recognized news medium; and
- b. The staging organization does not structure the debate to promote or advance one candidate or issue position over another.

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(c) For purposes of this chapter, an expenditure made for, or in furtherance of, an electioneering communication is not considered a contribution to or on behalf of any candidate.

- (d) For purposes of this chapter, an electioneering communication does not constitute an independent expenditure and is not subject to the limitations applicable to independent expenditures.
- (9) "Electioneering communications organization" means any group, other than a corporate or business entity described in sub-subparagraph (17) (b) 2.b., a political party, an affiliated party committee, or a political committee, whose election-related activities are limited to making expenditures for electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making electioneering communications and whose activities would not otherwise require the group to register as a political party or political committee under this chapter.
- (12) "Independent electioneering communication" means an expenditure by a person for an electioneering communication which, but for lack of express advocacy or approval language, meets the definition of an independent expenditure.
 - (17) (a) (16) (a) "Political committee" means:
- 1. A combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, that, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500 during a single calendar year:
- a. Accepts contributions for the purpose of making contributions to any candidate, political committee, affiliated party committee, or political party;
- b. Accepts contributions for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage

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or defeat of an issue;

- c. Makes expenditures that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of an issue; or
- d. Makes contributions to a common fund, other than a joint checking account between spouses, from which contributions are made to any candidate, political committee, affiliated party committee, or political party;
- 2. The sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment by initiative who intends to seek the signatures of registered electors.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the following entities are not considered political committees for purposes of this chapter:
- 1. National political parties, the state and county executive committees of political parties, and affiliated party committees regulated by chapter 103.
- 2. Provided that they do not receive contributions, corporations regulated by chapter 607 or chapter 617 or other business entities formed for purposes other than to support or oppose issues or candidates, if their political activities are limited to:
- $\underline{a.}$ Contributions to candidates, political parties, affiliated party committees, or political committees:
- b. Expenditures from corporate or business funds for independent electioneering communications or independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate; or
- $\underline{\text{c.}}$ Expenditures in support of or opposition to an issue from corporate or business funds and if no contributions are

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received by such corporations or business entities.

3. Electioneering communications organizations as defined in subsection (9).

Section 2. Section 106.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106.03 Registration of political committees, and electioneering communications organizations, and certain business entities.—

- (1) (a) Each political committee that receives contributions or makes expenditures during a calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500 or that seeks the signatures of registered electors in support of an initiative shall file a statement of organization as provided in subsection (2) (3) within 10 days after its organization. If a political committee is organized within 10 days of any election, it shall immediately file the statement of organization required by this section.
- (b) 1. Each electioneering communications organization group shall file a statement of organization as an electioneering communications organization within 24 hours after the date on which it makes expenditures for an electioneering communication in excess of $\frac{$500}{$5,000}$, if such expenditures are made within the timeframes specified in s. 106.011(8)(a)2. If the group makes expenditures for an electioneering communication in excess of $\frac{$500}{$5,000}$ before the timeframes specified in s. 106.011(8)(a)2., it must shall file the statement of organization within 24 hours after the 30th day before a primary or special primary election, or within 24 hours after the 60th day before any other election, whichever is applicable.
 - (c) Each corporate or business entity that makes

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expenditures for political activities described in s.

106.011(17)(b)2.b. in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500 per calendar year shall file the statement of information as provided in subsection (3) within 10 days after reaching the \$500 threshold. If this occurs within 10 days of any election, the corporate or business entity must immediately file the statement of information required by this section. However, if the corporate or business entity's expenditures are limited solely to electioneering communications before the timeframes specified in s. 106.011(8)(a)2., it must file the statement of information within 24 hours after the 30th day before a primary or special primary election, or within 24 hours after the 60th day before any other election, whichever is applicable.

2.a. In a statewide, legislative, or multicounty election, an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the Division of Elections.

b. In a countywide election or any election held on less than a countywide basis, except as described in sub-subparagraph c., an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the election is being held.

c. In a municipal election, an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the officer before whom municipal candidates qualify.

d. Any electioneering communications organization that would be required to file a statement of organization in two or more locations need only file a statement of organization with the Division of Elections.

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(2) The political committee's or electioneering communications organization's statement of organization <u>must shall</u> include all of the following:

- (a) The <u>committee's or organization's</u> name, <u>which must</u> incorporate the full name of the sponsoring entity, if any. An acronym or abbreviation may be used in other communications if the acronym or abbreviation is commonly known or clearly recognized by the general public.
- (b) The committee's or organization's mailing, street, and e-mail addresses. address, and street address of the committee or electioneering communications organization;
- (c) The address for the committee's or organization's principal website, if any.
- (d) (b) The names, street addresses, and relationships of affiliated or connected organizations, including any affiliated sponsors. If none, the committee or organization shall specify the trade, profession, or principal interest of its top or primarily targeted contributors.
- <u>(e) (c)</u> The <u>committee's or organization's</u> area, scope, or jurisdiction. of the committee or electioneering communications organization;
- (f) (d) The name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; address, street address, and position; telephone number; occupation; and principal place of business, if different from the street address, of the custodian of books and accounts.
- (g) (e) The name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; address, street address, and position; telephone number; occupation; and principal place of business, if different from the street address, of other principal officers, including the

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291 <u>chairperson</u>, treasurer, and deputy treasurer, if any.;

- $\underline{\text{(h)}}$ The name, address, office sought, and party affiliation of:
- 1. Each candidate whom the committee <u>or organization</u> is supporting; and
- 2. Any other individual, if any, whom the committee <u>or organization</u> is supporting for nomination for election, or election, to any public office whatever.
- $\underline{\text{(i)}}$ Any issue or issues the committee or organization is supporting or opposing.
- $\underline{\text{(j)}}$ (h) If the committee or organization is supporting the entire ticket of any party, a statement to that effect and the name of the party.
- $\underline{\text{(k)}}$ (i) A statement of whether the committee or organization is a continuing one.
- $\underline{\text{(1)}}$ Plans for the disposition of residual funds which will be made in the event of dissolution.
- $\underline{\text{(m)}}$ (k) A listing of all banks, safe-deposit boxes, or other depositories used for committee or electioneering communications organization funds.
- (n) (1) A statement of the reports required to be filed by the committee or the electioneering communications organization with federal officials, if any, and the names, addresses, and positions of such officials.; and
- (o) (m) A statement of whether the electioneering communications organization was formed as a newly created organization during the current calendar quarter or was formed from an organization existing before prior to the current calendar quarter. For purposes of this subsection, calendar

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quarters end the last day of March, June, September, and December.

- (p) For political committees, a statement of whether the committee will be making expenditures solely for independent electioneering communications or independent expenditures.
- (q) For electioneering communications organizations, a statement of whether the organization will be making expenditures solely for independent electioneering communications.
- (3) The corporate or business entity's statement of information must include all of the following:
- (a) The entity's name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; and telephone number.
 - (b) The address for the entity's principal website, if any.
- (c) The type of corporate or business entity, such as a corporation regulated pursuant to chapter 607 or chapter 617, a partnership, or a limited liability corporation.
- (d) A description of the entity's principal business or businesses.
- (e) The entity's tax-exempt status and, if tax exempt, the section of the Internal Revenue Code under which the entity is exempt from federal income tax.
- (f) The name; street, mailing, and e-mail addresses; and relationship of any affiliated corporation or group, including whether the affiliate is owned, operated, or controlled by the entity.
- (g) The name and title of the principal owner or stockholder of the entity, along with the percentage of the ownership interest.

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(h) The name and title, if any, of any person who holds, owns, controls, or otherwise has direct or indirect beneficial ownership of 5 percent or more of the total equity, outstanding voting shares, membership units, or other applicable ownership interest of the entity.

- (i) The name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; title; telephone number; and principal place of business, if different from the street address, of the individual who exercises control over the entity, such as the president, managing member, or chief executive officer, along with a description of that individual's role in controlling the entity.
- (j) The name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; title; telephone number; and principal place of business, if different from the street address, of each officer and board member of the entity, including the custodian of records and chief financial officer.
- (k) The name; mailing, street, and e-mail addresses; title; telephone number; and principal place of business, if different from the street address, of each individual responsible for decisions regarding reportable political expenditures.
- (1) The name, address, office sought, and party affiliation of:
 - 1. Each candidate whom the committee is supporting; and
- 2. Any other individual, if any, whom the committee is supporting for nomination for election, or election, to any public office whatever.
- (m) Any issue or issues the entity is supporting or opposing.
 - (n) If the entity is supporting the entire ticket of any

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party, a statement to that effect and the name of the party.

- (4) (a) (3) (a) A political committee, an electioneering communications organization, or a corporate or business entity that supports or opposes which is organized to support or oppose statewide, legislative, or multicounty candidates or issues to be voted upon on a statewide or multicounty basis shall file a statement of organization or a statement of information, as applicable, with the division of Elections.
- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a political committee, an electioneering communications organization, or a corporate or business entity that supports or opposes which is organized to support or oppose candidates or issues to be voted on in a countywide election or candidates or issues in any election held on less than a countywide basis shall file a statement of organization or a statement of information, as applicable, with the supervisor of elections of the county in which such election is being held.
- (c) A political committee, an electioneering communications organization, or a corporate or business entity that supports or opposes which is organized to support or oppose only candidates for municipal office or issues to be voted on in a municipal election shall file a statement of organization or a statement of information, as applicable, with the officer before whom municipal candidates qualify.
- (d) Any political committee, electioneering communications organization, or corporate or business entity that which would be required under this subsection to file a statement of organization or a statement of information in two or more locations need file only with the division of Elections.

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(5)(4) Any change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization or a statement of information must shall be reported to the agency or officer with whom such committee, or electioneering communications organization, or corporate or business entity is required to register within 10 days following the change.

- (6) (a) The chairperson and treasurer of the political committee or electioneering communications organization shall certify as to the correctness of each registration filing, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each statement. Any chairperson or treasurer who willfully certifies the correctness of any filing while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) The chief financial officer of the corporate or business entity and each person identified in paragraph (3)(k) as a decisionmaker with regard to political expenditures shall certify as to the correctness of each registration filing, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each statement. If the decisionmaker is a board or group, the principal officer of the board or group shall so certify. Any person who willfully certifies the correctness of any filing while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
- (7)(5) Any committee or organization that which, after having filed one or more statements of organization, or any

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corporate or business entity that after having filed one or more statements of information, disbands, dissolves, or determines it will no longer receive contributions or make expenditures during the calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500 shall so notify the agency or officer with whom such committee, organization, or entity is required to file the statement of organization or statement of information.

- (8) (a) $\frac{(6)}{(6)}$ If the filing officer finds that:
- 1. A political committee or an organization has filed its statement of organization consistent with the requirements of subsection (2), the filing officer it shall notify the committee or organization in writing that it has been registered as a political committee or an electioneering communications organization.
- 2. A corporate or a business entity that makes expenditures for political activities as described in s. 106.011(17)(b)2. has filed its statement of information consistent with the requirements of subsection (3), the filing officer shall notify the corporate or business entity in writing that its registration is complete.
- (b) If the filing officer finds that a political committee's statement of organization or statement of information does not meet the requirements of subsection (2) or subsection (3), the filing officer it shall notify the appropriate committee, organization, or entity of such finding and shall state in writing the reasons for rejection of the statement of organization or statement of information.
- $\underline{\text{(9)}}$ (7) The division of Elections shall adopt rules to prescribe the manner in which corporate or business entities may

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have their registrations canceled, and political committees and electioneering communications organizations may be dissolved and have their registrations registration canceled. Such rules must shall, at a minimum, provide for:

- (a) Notice <u>containing</u> which shall contain the facts and conduct <u>that</u> which warrant the intended action, including but not limited to failure to file reports and limited activity.
 - (b) Adequate opportunity to respond.
- (c) Appeal of the decision to the Florida Elections Commission. Such appeals $\underline{\text{are}}$ shall be exempt from the confidentiality provisions of s. 106.25.

Section 3. Subsections (1) and (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and subsection (5) of section 106.07, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106.07 Reports; certification and filing.-

(1) Each campaign treasurer designated by a candidate or political committee pursuant to s. 106.021 shall file regular reports of all contributions received, and all expenditures made, by or on behalf of such candidate or political committee. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each corporate or business entity required to register pursuant to s. 106.03, other than one that makes expenditures solely for independent electioneering communications, shall file regular reports of all expenditures as if it were a political committee and its chief financial officer were the committee's treasurer. Except for the third calendar quarter immediately preceding a general election and as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b), reports shall be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar month from the time the campaign treasurer is appointed, except that,

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if the 10th day following the end of a calendar month occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report shall be filed on the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Monthly reports <u>must shall</u> include all contributions received and expenditures made during the calendar month which have not otherwise been reported pursuant to this section.

- (a) A statewide candidate or a political committee required to file reports with the division must file reports:
- 1. On the 60th day immediately preceding the primary election, and each week thereafter, with the last weekly report being filed on the 4th day immediately preceding the general election.
- 2. On the 10th day immediately preceding the general election, and each day thereafter, with the last daily report being filed the 5th day immediately preceding the general election.
- (b) Any other candidate or a political committee required to file reports with a filing officer other than the division must file reports on the 60th day immediately preceding the primary election, and biweekly on each Friday thereafter through and including the 4th day immediately preceding the general election, with additional reports due on the 25th and 11th days before the primary election and the general election.
- (c) Following the last day of qualifying for office, any unopposed candidate need only file a report within 90 days after the date such candidate became unopposed. Such report shall contain all previously unreported contributions and expenditures as required by this section and shall reflect disposition of

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funds as required by s. 106.141.

- (d)1. When a special election is called to fill a vacancy in office, all political committees making contributions or expenditures to influence the results of such special election or the preceding special primary election shall file campaign treasurers' reports with the filing officer on the dates set by the Department of State pursuant to s. 100.111.
- 2. When an election is called for an issue to appear on the ballot at a time when no candidates are scheduled to appear on the ballot, all political committees making contributions or expenditures in support of or in opposition to such issue shall file reports on the 18th and 4th days before such election.
- (e) The filing officer shall provide each candidate with a schedule designating the beginning and end of reporting periods as well as the corresponding designated due dates.
- (3) Reports required of a political committee shall be filed with the agency or officer before whom such committee registers pursuant to $\underline{s.\ 106.03(4)}\ \underline{s.\ 106.03(3)}$ and $\underline{are}\ \underline{shall}\ \underline{be}$ subject to the same filing conditions as established for candidates' reports. Incomplete reports by political committees shall be treated in the manner provided for incomplete reports by candidates in subsection (2).
- (4) (a) Except for daily reports, to which only the contributions provisions below apply, and except as provided in paragraph (b), each report required by this section must contain:
- 1. The full name, address, and occupation, if any, of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for such committee or candidate within the reporting period, together

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with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less or is from a relative, as defined in s. 112.312, provided that the relationship is reported, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.

- 2. The name and address of each political committee from which the reporting committee or the candidate received, or to which the reporting committee or candidate made, any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.
- 3. Each loan for campaign purposes to or from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full names, addresses, and occupations, and principal places of business, if any, of the lender and endorsers, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.
- 4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1. through 3.
- 5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such committee or candidate during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.
- 6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures, including independent expenditures specifically designated as such, have been made by or on behalf of the committee or candidate within the reporting period; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; a description of the

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services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; a description of the content of the independent expenditure or political advertisement to which the expenditure relates; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided by s. 106.12 need not be reported individually.

- 7. For independent expenditures by corporate or business entities:
- a. The value of any current contract, or any contract the entity expects to bid on in the next 12 months, which the entity, or an affiliate owned, operated, or controlled by the entity, has with a governmental body for the provision of goods or services valued in excess of \$5,000.
 - b. The date, or expected date, of the contract.
 - c. The parties, or anticipated parties, to the contract.
- d. A description of the goods or services provided or to be provided.
- e. For existing contracts, a statement as to whether the contract was subject to the applicable competitive bidding process.
- f. Whether the entity, or an affiliate owned, operated, or controlled by the entity, is, or employs, a lobbyist or lobbying firm required to register pursuant to s. 11.045 or s. 112.3215; if so, the name of the agencies or governmental bodies lobbied, along with the names of any registered lobbyists.
- 8. The full name and address of each person to whom an expenditure for personal services, salary, or reimbursement for

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authorized expenses as provided in s. 106.021(3) has been made and which is not otherwise reported, including the amount, date, and purpose of such expenditure. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided for in s. 106.12 need not be reported individually. Receipts for reimbursement for authorized expenditures shall be retained by the treasurer along with the records for the campaign account.

- 9.8. The total amount withdrawn and the total amount spent for petty cash purposes pursuant to this chapter during the reporting period.
- 10.9. The total sum of expenditures made by such committee or candidate during the reporting period.
- 11.10. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the committee or candidate, which relate to the conduct of any political campaign.
- 12.11. Except for a corporate or business entity, transaction information for each credit card purchase. Receipts for each credit card purchase shall be retained by the treasurer with the records for the campaign account.
- 13.12. Except for a corporate or business entity, the amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.
- 14.13. The primary purposes of an expenditure made indirectly through a campaign treasurer pursuant to s. 106.021(3) for goods and services, such as communications media placement or procurement services, campaign signs, and insurance; fees for consultants, advertising agencies, and

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similar firms; and other expenditures that include multiple components as part of the expenditure. The primary purpose of an expenditure shall be that purpose, including integral and directly related components, that comprises 80 percent of such expenditure. Such expenditures shall be reported with sufficient specificity to permit a reasonable person to determine the ultimate intended recipient of the expenditure.

- 15. For committees making only independent expenditures and independent electioneering communications, certification of that fact.
- (5) (a) The candidate and his or her campaign treasurer, in the case of a candidate, or the political committee chair and campaign treasurer of the committee, in the case of a political committee, shall certify as to the correctness of each report; and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. Any campaign treasurer, candidate, or political committee chair who willfully certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) The chief financial officer of the corporate or business entity and each person identified in s. 106.03(3)(k) as a decisionmaker with regard to political expenditures shall certify as to the correctness of each report, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. If the decisionmaker is a board or group, the principal officer of the board or group shall so certify. Any person who willfully certifies the correctness of

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any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 106.0703, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106.0703 Electioneering communications organizations; reporting requirements; certification and filing; penalties.—

(1)(a) Each electioneering communications organization shall file regular reports of all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the organization. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each corporate or business entity required to register pursuant to s. 106.03 which makes expenditures solely for independent electioneering communications must file regular reports of all expenditures as if it were an electioneering communications organization and its chief financial officer were the organization's treasurer. Except for the third calendar quarter immediately preceding a general election and as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c), reports must be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar month from the time the organization is registered. However, if the 10th day following the end of a calendar month occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report must be filed on the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Monthly reports must include all contributions received and expenditures made during the calendar month that have not otherwise been reported pursuant to this section.

(3)(a) Except for daily reports, to which only the

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contribution provisions below apply, each report required by this section must contain:

- 1. The full name, address, and occupation, if any, of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for such electioneering communications organization within the reporting period, together with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.
- 2. The name and address of each political committee from which or to which the reporting electioneering communications organization made any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.
- 3. Each loan for electioneering communication purposes to or from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full names, addresses, and occupations and principal places of business, if any, of the lender and endorsers, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.
- 4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1.-3.
- 5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such electioneering communications organization during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.
- 6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the

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electioneering communications organization within the reporting period; and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; a description of the content of the electioneering communication to which the expenditure relates; the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made; and whether the expenditure was for an independent electioneering communication.

- 7. For independent expenditures by corporate or business entities:
- a. The value of any current contract, or any contract the entity expects to bid on in the next 12 months, which the entity, or an affiliate owned, operated, or controlled by the entity, has with a governmental body for the provision of goods or services valued in excess of \$5,000.
 - b. The date, or expected date, of the contract.
 - c. The parties, or anticipated parties, to the contract.
- d. A description of the goods or services provided or to be provided.
- e. For existing contracts, a statement as to whether the contract was subject to the applicable competitive bidding process.
- f. Whether the entity, or an affiliate owned, operated, or controlled by the entity, is, or employs, a lobbyist or lobbying firm required to register pursuant to s. 11.045 or s. 112.3215; if so, the name of the agencies or governmental bodies lobbied, along with the names of any registered lobbyists.
 - 8. The full name and address of each person to whom an

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expenditure for personal services, salary, or reimbursement for expenses has been made and that is not otherwise reported, including the amount, date, and purpose of the expenditure.

- 9.8. The total sum of expenditures made by the electioneering communications organization during the reporting period.
- 10.9. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the electioneering communications organization that relate to the conduct of any electioneering communication.
- 11.10. Except for a corporate or business entity, transaction information for each credit card purchase. Receipts for each credit card purchase shall be retained by the electioneering communications organization.
- 12.11. Except for a corporate or business entity, the amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.
- 13.12. The primary purposes of an expenditure made indirectly through an electioneering communications organization for goods and services, such as communications media placement or procurement services; fees for consultants, advertising agencies, and similar firms; and other expenditures that include multiple components as part of the expenditure. The primary purpose of an expenditure shall be that purpose, including integral and directly related components, that comprises 80 percent of such expenditure. Such expenditures shall be reported with sufficient specificity to permit a reasonable person to determine the ultimate intended recipient of the expenditure.

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14. For electioneering communications organizations making only independent electioneering communications, certification of that fact.

- (4) (a) The treasurer of the electioneering communications organization shall certify as to the correctness of each report, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. Any treasurer who willfully certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) The chief financial officer of the corporate or business entity and each person identified in s. 106.03(3)(k) as a decisionmaker with regard to political expenditures shall certify as to the correctness of each report, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. If the decisionmaker is a board or group, the principal officer of the board or group shall so certify. Any person who willfully certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and subsections (4) and (6) of section 106.0705, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106.0705 Electronic filing of campaign treasurer's reports.—

(2)

(b) Each political committee, electioneering communications

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organization, corporate or business entity, affiliated party committee, or state executive committee that is required to file registration statements with the division under s. 106.03 or file reports with the division under s. 106.07, s. 106.0703, or s. 106.29, as applicable, must file such statements or reports with the division by means of the division's electronic filing system.

- (4) Each <u>statement or</u> report filed pursuant to this section is considered to be under oath by the candidate and treasurer, the chair and treasurer, <u>the chief financial officer and primary political expenditure decisionmaker specified in s.</u>

 106.03(3)(k), the treasurer under s. 106.0703, or the leader and treasurer under s. 103.092, whichever is applicable, and such persons are subject to the provisions of <u>s. 106.03(6)</u>, s.

 106.07(5), s. 106.0703(4), or s. 106.29(2), as applicable.

 Persons given a secure sign-on to the electronic filing system are responsible for protecting such from disclosure and are responsible for all filings using such credentials, unless they have notified the division that their credentials have been compromised.
- (6) The division shall adopt rules to administer this section and provide for the <u>statements and</u> reports required to be filed pursuant to this section. Such rules shall, at a minimum, provide:
- (a) Alternate filing procedures in case the division's electronic filing system is not operable.
- (b) For the issuance of an electronic receipt to the person submitting the <u>statement or</u> report indicating and verifying that the report has been filed.

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Section 6. Section 106.0708, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

106.0708 Electronic searchable database.-

- (1) The division shall implement and maintain an electronic campaign finance database accessible through its website which provides users the ability to search and retrieve all registration statements, reports, and other filings required to be filed electronically with the division pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) The database must allow, at a minimum, a user to search in the following basic categories: contribution records, expenditure records, fund transfer records, other distribution records, and business records. Further, the database must contain the maximum amount of meaningful subsets, cross-references, and categories of information available to enable the efficient sorting of data.
- (3) The database must be user-friendly and organized in such a manner that a person of reasonable intelligence and Internet skills may efficiently aggregate relevant information that will inform the person about the sources of funding for candidates, political committees, electioneering communications organizations, political parties, affiliated party committees, and all forms of publicly disseminated political communications, such as political advertisements, independent expenditures, and electioneering communications, in order to determine who is advocating in favor of or against a candidate or an issue.
- (4) The database must retain, at a minimum, the level of functionality and searchability which exists on the division's searchable electronic campaign finance database as of January 1,

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(5) The division shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 106.071, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106.071 Independent expenditures; electioneering communications; reports; disclaimers.—

- (1) Each person who makes an independent expenditure or with respect to any candidate or issue, and each individual who makes an expenditure for an electioneering communication which is not otherwise reported pursuant to this chapter, which expenditure, in the aggregate, is in the amount of \$500 \$5,000or more, shall file periodic reports of such expenditures in the same manner, at the same time, subject to the same penalties, and with the same officer as an electioneering communications organization or a political committee supporting or opposing such candidate or issue, as appropriate. The report shall contain the full name and address of the person making the expenditure; the full name and address of each person to whom and for whom each such expenditure has been made; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; a description of the content of the independent expenditure or electioneering communication to which the expenditure relates; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made.
- (2) Any political advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure reportable pursuant to this section must shall

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prominently state "Paid political advertisement paid for by ... (Name and address of person paying for advertisement)... independently of any ... (candidate or committee)..."

Section 8. Subsection (3) and present subsections (7) and (8) of section 106.08, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (4) through (10) of that section are renumbered as subsections (5) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

106.08 Contributions; limitations on.—

- (3) (a) A political committee may not make a transfer or contribution of more than \$1,000 to a political party or an affiliated party committee.
- (b) A political committee or an electioneering communications organization may not accept a transfer or contribution of more than \$1,000 from another political committee or electioneering communications organization, or from a political party or an affiliated party committee.
- (c) Paragraph (b) does not apply when the receiving committee is:
- 1. A political committee that is not, in whole or in part, established, maintained, or controlled by a candidate and whose election-related activities are limited to making independent expenditures or expenditures for independent electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making such expenditures; or
- 2. An electioneering communications organization that is not, in whole or in part, established, maintained, or controlled by a candidate and whose election-related activities are limited to making expenditures for independent electioneering

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communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making such electioneering communications.

- (4) (a) Any contribution received by a candidate with opposition in an election or by the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer of such a candidate on the day of that election or less than 5 days before the day of that election must be returned by him or her to the person or committee contributing it and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.
- (b) Any contribution received by a candidate or by the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer of a candidate after the date at which the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy, or after the date the candidate is defeated, becomes unopposed, or is elected to office must be returned to the person or committee contributing it and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.
- (8) (a) (7) (a) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes or accepts no more than one contribution in violation of subsection (1), subsection (3), or subsection (6) subsection (1) or subsection (5), or any person who knowingly and willfully fails or refuses to return any contribution as required in subsection (4) (3), commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, affiliated party committee, political committee, or electioneering communications organization is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000. If it is a domestic entity, it

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may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or nonresident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, or of a political party, an affiliated party committee, a political committee, an electioneering communications organization, or an organization exempt from taxation under s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes or accepts two or more contributions in violation of subsection (1), subsection (3), or subsection (6) subsection (1) or subsection (5) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, affiliated party committee, political committee, or electioneering communications organization is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000. If it is a domestic entity, it may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or nonresident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, or of a political committee, a political party, an affiliated party committee, or an

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electioneering communications organization, or <u>an</u> organization exempt from taxation under s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(9) (8) Except when otherwise provided in subsection (8) (7), any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this section shall, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by this chapter, pay to the state a sum equal to twice the amount contributed in violation of this chapter. Each campaign treasurer shall pay all amounts contributed in violation of this section to the state for deposit in the General Revenue Fund.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 106.143, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

106.143 Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.—

(1)

- (e)1. Any political advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure must prominently state "Paid political advertisement paid for by ... (Name and address of person paying for advertisement)... independently of any ... (candidate or committee)..."
- 2. If the sponsor is an affiliate or a subsidiary of a corporate or business entity required to register pursuant to s. 106.03, the disclaimer must identify the sponsor as: ... "a/an (insert affiliate or subsidiary) of (insert name of parent

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corporation or entity)...."

(5) (a) Any political advertisement not paid for by a candidate, including those paid for by a political party or <u>an</u> affiliated party committee, other than an independent expenditure, offered on behalf of a candidate must be approved in advance by the candidate. Such political advertisement must expressly state that the content of the advertisement was approved by the candidate, unless the political advertisement is published, displayed, or circulated <u>in support of</u>, or <u>in opposition to</u>, a write-in candidate <u>in compliance with subparagraph (1)(a)2.</u>, and must state who paid for the advertisement. The candidate shall provide a written statement of authorization to the newspaper, radio station, television station, or other medium for each such advertisement submitted for publication, display, broadcast, or other distribution.

Section 10. Section 106.1439, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 106.1439 Electioneering communications; disclaimers.-
- (1) (a) Any <u>independent</u> electioneering communication reportable pursuant to this chapter, other than a telephone call, <u>must shall</u> prominently state: "Paid electioneering communication paid for by ... (Name and address of person paying for the communication)...<u>independently of any candidate or committee."</u>
- (b) Any other electioneering communication, other than a telephone call, must prominently state: "Paid electioneering communication paid for by...(Name and address of person paying for the communication) ...in coordination with...(insert name of candidate, committee, or organization)..."

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(2) (a) Any electioneering communication, other than an independent electioneering communication, offered on behalf of a candidate must be approved in advance by the candidate. Such communication must expressly state that the content of the communication was approved by the candidate, unless the communication is published, displayed, or circulated in support of, or opposition to, a write-in candidate. The candidate shall provide a written statement of authorization to the newspaper, radio station, television station, or other medium for each such communication submitted for publication, display, broadcast, or other distribution.

- (b) Any person who makes an independent electioneering communication shall provide a written statement to the newspaper, radio station, television station, or other medium that no candidate has approved the communication for each such communication submitted for publication, display, broadcast, or other distribution. Any electioneering communication telephone call shall identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: "Paid for by ... (insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call)...." or "Paid for on behalf of ... (insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call)...." This subsection does not apply to any telephone call in which the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.
- (3) Any person who <u>willfully violates this section</u> fails to include the disclaimer prescribed in this section in any electioneering communication that is required to contain such disclaimer commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable

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1074 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 11. Section 106.147, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106.147 Telephone solicitation; disclosure requirements; prohibitions; exemptions; penalties.—

- (1) (a) Any telephone call supporting or opposing a candidate, <u>an</u> elected public official, or <u>a</u> ballot proposal must identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: "paid for by" (insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call) or "paid for on behalf of" (insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call). <u>If the call is conducted by independent expenditure or independent electioneering communication, the statement must be followed by the phrase "independently of any candidate, committee, or organization." Otherwise, the statement must be followed by the phrase "in coordination with ...(insert name of candidate, committee, or organization)...."</u>
- (b) If the sponsor is an affiliate or a subsidiary of a corporate or business entity required to register pursuant to s. 106.03, the disclaimer must identify the sponsor as: "...a/an (affiliate or subsidiary) of (insert name of parent corporation or entity)...."
 - (2) Subsection (1) This paragraph does not apply to:
- (a) Any telephone call in which both the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.
- (b) Any telephone call conducted for the purpose of polling respondents concerning a candidate or \underline{an} elected public official which is a part of a series of like telephone calls that

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consists of fewer than 1,000 completed calls and averages more than 2 minutes in duration which is presumed to be a political poll and not subject to the provisions of paragraph (a).

- $\underline{\text{(3)}}$ (c) $\underline{\text{A}}$ No telephone call $\underline{\text{may not}}$ state or imply that the caller represents:
- (a) Any person or organization, unless the person or organization so represented has given specific approval in writing to make such representation.
- (b) (d) No telephone call shall state or imply that the caller represents A nonexistent person or organization.
- (4)(2) Any telephone call, not conducted by independent expenditure or independent electioneering communication, which supports or opposes a ballot proposal or expressly advocates for or against a candidate, except a noncandidate call involving a write-in candidate, or ballot proposal requires prior written authorization by the candidate or sponsor of the ballot proposal that the call supports. A copy of such written authorization must be placed on file with the qualifying officer by the candidate or sponsor of the ballot proposal prior to the time the calls commence.
- (5) (a) (3) (a) Any person who willfully violates any provision of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) For purposes of paragraph (a), the term "person" includes any candidate; any officer of any political committee, electioneering communications organization, affiliated party committee, or political party executive committee; any officer, partner, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity; and any agent or other

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person acting on behalf of any candidate, political committee, electioneering communications organization, affiliated party committee, political party executive committee, or corporation, partnership, or other business entity.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 106.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106.25 Reports of alleged violations to Florida Elections Commission; disposition of findings.—

(2) The commission shall investigate all violations of this chapter and chapter 104, but only after having received either a sworn complaint or information reported to it under this subsection by the division of Elections. Such sworn complaint must be based upon personal information or information other than hearsay. Any person, other than the division, having information of any violation of this chapter or chapter 104 shall file a sworn complaint with the commission. The commission shall investigate only those alleged violations specifically contained within the sworn complaint. If any complainant fails to allege all violations that arise from the facts or allegations alleged in a complaint, the commission shall be barred from investigating a subsequent complaint from such complainant that is based upon such facts or allegations that were raised or could have been raised in the first complaint. If the complaint includes allegations of violations relating to expense items reimbursed by a candidate, committee, or organization to the campaign account before a sworn complaint is filed, the commission shall be barred from investigating such allegations. Such sworn complaint shall state whether a complaint of the same violation has been made to any state

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attorney. Within 5 days after receipt of a sworn complaint, the commission shall transmit a copy of the complaint to the alleged violator. The respondent shall have 14 days after receipt of the complaint to file an initial response, and the executive director may not determine the legal sufficiency of the complaint during that time period. If the executive director finds that the complaint is legally sufficient, the respondent shall be notified of such finding by letter, which sets forth the statutory provisions alleged to have been violated and the alleged factual basis that supports the finding. All sworn complaints alleging violations of the Florida Election Code over which the commission has jurisdiction shall be filed with the commission within 2 years after the alleged violations. The period of limitations is tolled on the day a sworn complaint is filed with the commission. The complainant may withdraw the sworn complaint at any time prior to a probable cause hearing if good cause is shown. Withdrawal shall be requested in writing, signed by the complainant, and witnessed by a notary public, stating the facts and circumstances constituting good cause. The executive director shall prepare a written recommendation regarding disposition of the request which shall be given to the commission together with the request. "Good cause" shall be determined based upon the legal sufficiency or insufficiency of the complaint to allege a violation and the reasons given by the complainant for wishing to withdraw the complaint. If withdrawal is permitted, the commission must close the investigation and the case. No further action may be taken. The complaint will become a public record at the time of withdrawal.

Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 106.29, Florida

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1190 Statutes, is amended to read:

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106.29 Reports by political parties and affiliated party committees; restrictions on contributions and expenditures; penalties.—

(1) The state executive committee and each county executive committee of each political party and any affiliated party committee regulated by chapter 103 shall file regular reports of all contributions received and all expenditures made by such committee. However, the reports shall not include contributions and expenditures that are reported to the Federal Election Commission. In addition, when a special election is called to fill a vacancy in office, each state executive committee, each affiliated party committee, and each county executive committee making contributions or expenditures to influence the results of the special election or the preceding special primary election must file campaign treasurers' reports on the dates set by the Department of State pursuant to s. 100.111. Such reports shall contain the same information as do reports required of candidates by s. 106.07 and shall be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar quarter, except that, during the period from the last day for candidate qualifying until the general election, such reports shall be filed on the Friday immediately preceding each special primary election, special election, primary election, and general election. In addition to the reports filed under this section, the state executive committee, each county executive committee, and each affiliated party committee shall file a copy of each prior written acceptance of an in-kind contribution given by the committee during the preceding calendar quarter as required under s.

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9-01366-18 20181276___ 106.08(7) s. 106.08(6). Each state executive committee and

106.08(7) s. 106.08(6). Each state executive committee and affiliated party committee shall file its reports with the Division of Elections. Each county executive committee shall file its reports with the supervisor of elections in the county in which such committee exists. Any state or county executive committee or affiliated party committee failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in subsection (3). No separate fine shall be assessed for failure to file a copy of any report required by this section.

Section 14. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.