

Sixty-third  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1447**

Introduced by

Representatives Mock, Beadle, Gruchalla, Guggisberg, Paur, Toman

Senator Warner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 16.1-08.1-02, subsection 2 of  
2 section 16.1-08.1-03, subsection 4 of section 16.1-08.1-03.1, subsection 3 of section  
3 16.1-08.1-03.3, subsection 3 of section 16.1-08.1-03.8, subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.9,  
4 subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.10, subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.11, subsection 2  
5 of section 16.1-08.1-03.12, and sections 16.1-08.1-04 and 16.1-08.1-06 of the North Dakota  
6 Century Code, relating to campaign contribution and expenditure reports and reporting  
7 deadlines; and to provide an effective date.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 16.1-08.1-02 of the North Dakota  
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 3. The candidate committee, or candidate for statewide office who does not have a  
12 candidate committee, and any candidate for legislative office shall file the statement in  
13 the office of the secretary of state no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the  
14 date of the election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot or in which  
15 the candidate seeks election through write-in votes complete from the beginning of  
16 that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the date of the election.  
17 Every candidate committee, or candidate for statewide office who does not have a  
18 candidate committee, and every candidate for legislative office shall file a complete  
19 statement for each calendar year no later than the thirty-first day of January of the  
20 following year, regardless of whether the candidate sought election during that  
21 calendar year.

22 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03 of the North Dakota  
23 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. A year-end statement covering the entire calendar year must be filed with the secretary of state no later than the thirty-first day of January of the following year. A preelection statement must be filed no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before any election at which the party has endorsed or will nominate a candidate and must be complete from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the election.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 16.1-08.1-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. The statement required of a person or measure committee under subsection 2 must be filed with the secretary of state no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the date of the election in which the measure appears or would have appeared on the ballot complete from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the date of the election. A complete statement for the entire calendar year for each statement required to be filed under subsections 2 and 3 must be filed no later than the thirty-first day of January of the following year. Even if a person required to report according to this section has not received any contributions in excess of one hundred dollars during the reporting period, the person shall file a statement as required by this chapter. A statement filed according to subsections 2 and 3 during the reporting period must show the following:

- a. The gross total of all contributions received and expenditures made in excess of one hundred dollars;
- b. The gross total of all contributions received and expenditures made of one hundred dollars, or less; and
- c. The cash on hand in the filer's account at the start and close of the reporting period.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 16.1-08.1-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. All political action committees, as described in section 16.1-08.1-01, formed for the purpose of administering the segregated fund provided for in this section shall file a statement showing the name and mailing address of each contributor of an amount in excess of two hundred dollars in the aggregate for the reporting period and a listing of

all expenditures of an amount in excess of two hundred dollars in the aggregate made for political purposes with the secretary of state. The statement must include the amount of each reportable contribution and the date it was received and the amount of each reportable expenditure and the date it was made. A year-end statement covering the entire calendar year must be filed no later than the thirty-first day of January of the following year. A preelection statement must be filed no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before any primary, special, or general election and must be complete from the beginning of the calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the election. Even if a political action committee has not received any contributions or made any expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars during the reporting period, the political action committee shall file a statement as required by this chapter. A statement filed according to this section during the reporting period must show the following:

- a. The gross total of all contributions received and expenditures made in excess of two hundred dollars;
- b. The gross total of all contributions received and expenditures made of two hundred dollars, or less; and
- c. The cash on hand in the filer's account at the start and close of the reporting period.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 16.1-08.1-03.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. A multicandidate political committee required to file a statement under this section shall file the statement in the office of the secretary of state no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the date of any primary, special, or general election. The statement must be complete from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the date of the primary, special, or general election. The political committee shall file a complete statement for the entire calendar year no later than the thirty-first day of January of the following year in which the political committee received a reportable contribution.

**SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1        2. A candidate or a candidate committee described in this section shall file a statement  
2        with the secretary of state no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the date of  
3        the election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot or in which the  
4        candidate seeks election through write-in votes. The reporting period for each of these  
5        statements is from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth  
6        day before the date of the election.

7        **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.10 of the North Dakota  
8        Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 9        2. A candidate or a candidate committee described in this section shall file a statement  
10       with the county auditor no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the date of the  
11       election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot or in which the candidate  
12       seeks election through write-in votes. The reporting period for each of these  
13       statements is from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth  
14       day before the date of the election.

15       **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.11 of the North Dakota  
16       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 17       2. A candidate or a candidate committee described in this section shall file a statement  
18       with the city auditor no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before the date of any  
19       election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot or in which the candidate  
20       seeks election through write-in votes. The reporting period for each of these  
21       statements is from the beginning of that calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth  
22       day before the date of the election.

23       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 16.1-08.1-03.12 of the North Dakota  
24       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 25       2. A preelection statement must be filed no later than the ~~twelfth~~thirty-second day before  
26       a primary, special, or general election and must be complete from the beginning of the  
27       calendar year through the ~~twentieth~~fortieth day before the election.

28       **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-08.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29       amended and reenacted as follows:

**16.1-08.1-04. Supplemental statement required on large contributions received after original statement - Filing time.**

If any candidate, political party, or political committee receives contributions in excess of five hundred dollars in the aggregate in the ~~twenty-day~~thirty-nine-day period before any election from any individual contributor, that candidate, political party, political committee, or person shall make and file a supplemental statement in the same form as required by section 16.1-08.1-02, 16.1-08.1-03, 16.1-08.1-03.1, 16.1-08.1-03.3, 16.1-08.1-03.8, 16.1-08.1-03.9, 16.1-08.1-03.10, or 16.1-08.1-03.11 stating the name and street address of the contributor and the aggregated amount of the contribution and file the statement in the appropriate office within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the contribution.

**SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-08.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**16.1-08.1-06. Contributions and expenditure statement requirements.**

1. Any statement required by this chapter to be filed with the secretary of state must be:
  - a. Deemed properly filed when deposited with or delivered to the secretary of state within the prescribed time and in the format established by the secretary of state. A statement that is mailed is deemed properly filed when it is postmarked and directed to the secretary of state within the prescribed time. If the secretary of state does not receive a statement, a duplicate of the statement must be promptly filed upon notice by the secretary of state of its nonreceipt. After a statement has been filed, the secretary of state may request or accept written clarification along with an amended statement from a candidate, political party, or political committee filing the statement when discrepancies, errors, or omissions on the statement are discovered by the secretary of state, the candidate, political party, or political committee filing the statement, or by any interested party reciting a lawful reason for requesting clarification and an amendment be made. When requesting an amended statement, the secretary of state shall establish a reasonable period of time, not to exceed ten days, agreed to by the candidate, political party, or political committee, for filing the amended statement with the secretary of state.

b. Preserved by the secretary of state for a period of four years from the date of filing. The statement is to be considered a part of the public records of the secretary of state's office and must be open to public inspection.

2. If the filing date falls on a Saturday or Sunday or a holiday on which the office of the secretary of state is closed, the statement must be filed on the next available day on which the office of the secretary of state is open. In determining the amount of individual contributions from any contributor, all amounts received from the same contributor during the reporting period must be aggregated to report an overall total contribution for the purposes of the statements required by this chapter. Aggregate contributions must reference the date of the most recent contribution. Contributions made separately by different persons from joint accounts are considered separate contributions for reporting purposes.

3. Before February 1, 2014, the secretary of state shall implement a system through which any statement required by this chapter to be filed with the secretary of state must be filed through an electronic filing application provided by the secretary of state. The system must be designed so that any statement and data filed electronically may be made available on the internet to the public free of charge within twenty-four hours after filing.

4. Unless otherwise provided by law, any candidate, political party, committee, or person may not be charged a fee for filing any statement with the secretary of state under this chapter.

**SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-08.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**16.1-08.1-06. Contributions and expenditure statement requirements.**

1. Any statement required by this chapter to be filed with the secretary of state must be:

a. Deemed properly filed when ~~deposited with or~~electronically delivered to the secretary of state within the prescribed time and in the format established by the secretary of state. ~~A statement that is mailed is deemed properly filed when it is postmarked and directed to the secretary of state within the prescribed time.~~ If the secretary of state does not receive a statement, a duplicate of the statement must be promptly filed upon notice by the secretary of state of its nonreceipt.

1 After a statement has been filed, the secretary of state may request or accept  
2 written clarification along with an amended statement from a candidate, political  
3 party, or political committee filing the statement when discrepancies, errors, or  
4 omissions on the statement are discovered by the secretary of state, the  
5 candidate, political party, or political committee filing the statement, or by any  
6 interested party reciting a lawful reason for requesting clarification and an  
7 amendment be made. When requesting an amended statement, the secretary of  
8 state shall establish a reasonable period of time, not to exceed ten days, agreed  
9 to by the candidate, political party, or political committee, for filing the amended  
10 statement with the secretary of state.

11 b. Preserved by the secretary of state for a period of fourteen years from the date of  
12 filing. The statement is to be considered a part of the public records of the  
13 secretary of state's office and must be open to public inspection.

14 2. ~~If the filing date falls on a Saturday or Sunday or a holiday on which the office of the~~  
15 ~~secretary of state is closed, the statement must be filed on the next available day on~~  
16 ~~which the office of the secretary of state is open.~~ In determining the amount of  
17 individual contributions from any contributor, all amounts received from the same  
18 contributor during the reporting period must be aggregated to report an overall total  
19 contribution for the purposes of the statements required by this chapter. Aggregate  
20 contributions must reference the date of the most recent contribution. Contributions  
21 made separately by different persons from joint accounts are considered separate  
22 contributions for reporting purposes.

23 3. ~~Before February 1, 2014, the secretary of state shall implement a system through~~  
24 ~~which any statement required by this chapter to be filed with the secretary of state~~  
25 ~~must be filed through an electronic filing application provided by the secretary of state.~~  
26 ~~The system must be designed so that any~~Any statement and data filed electronically  
27 may~~must~~ be made available on the internet to the public free of charge within  
28 twenty-four hours after filing.

29 4. Unless otherwise provided by law, any candidate, political party, committee, or person  
30 may not be charged a fee for filing any statement with the secretary of state under this  
31 chapter.

1       **SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 12 of this Act becomes effective on February 1,  
2   2014.