

SB 2156 INTRODUCTION

Title: A Bill to Repeal Chapter 16.1-08.1 and Replace it with Chapter 16.1-08.2 to Modernize Campaign Finance Reporting

Purpose:

This bill repeals Chapter 16.1-08.1 and replaces it with Chapter 16.1-08.2 to accommodate necessary software updates and improve transparency and efficiency in campaign finance reporting. While much of this looks like new language, as the Senate reviewed the bill, it made more sense to strike the old chapter and draft a new chapter to keep the changes more clear.

Key Provisions:

- **Modernization of Definitions:**

- Updates the definition of "political purpose" for clarity. *(Page 8, Section 16.1-08.2-01(15))*
- Clarifies that "political purpose" refers to expenditures related to supporting or opposing candidates or measures.

- **General Provisions for All Parties:**

- Establishes a new general provisions section applicable to all political entities.
- Eliminates expenditure categories, requiring each transaction to be reported individually.
- Only transactions exceeding \$250 will be publicly available. *(Page 10, Section 16.1-08.2-02(7))*
- Simplifies and standardizes reporting to improve consistency and accessibility.

- **Revised Reporting Requirements:**

- Shifts reporting deadlines from the 39th and 40th days before an election to fixed calendar dates. *(Page 11, Section 16.1-08.2-03)*
- Expands reporting to include beginning and ending balances for legislators, not just statewide candidates. *(Pages 10-11, Sections 16.1-08.2-02 and 16.1-08.2-03)*
- Aligns deadlines with calendar dates for clarity and includes more comprehensive financial reporting for legislators.

- **Contribution Threshold Adjustments:**

- Increases the threshold for reportable contributions from \$200 to \$250. *(Throughout Chapter 16.1-08.2, various sections)*
- Maintains the existing threshold for reportable ballot measure contributions. *(Page 16, Section 16.1-08.2-05)*
- Adjusts thresholds for inflation while maintaining transparency for larger dollar amounts.

- **Donor Information Requirements:**

- Removes the requirement to report a donor's street address, limiting disclosure to name, city, and state. *(Throughout Chapter 16.1-08.2, various sections)*
- *Balances donor privacy with public disclosure requirements.*

- **Late Filing Penalties:**

- Establishes a tiered fine structure for late filings:
 - Up to 6 days late: \$100 fine
 - Up to 14 days late: \$250 fine
 - More than 14 days late: \$500 fine
- Treats amendments made after 6 days as late reports. *(Page 23, Section 16.1-08.2-11)*
- *Encourages timely and accurate reporting with a structured penalty system.*

Impact:

These updates streamline campaign finance reporting, reduce administrative burdens, enhance transparency, and ensure timely and accurate disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a "Do Pass" recommendation and would be happy to answer any questions.

Sean

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