

Approved: 1-26-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION & ELECTIONS.

The meeting was called at the rail by Chairperson Kent Glasscock after adjournment of the House on January 15, 1998.

All members were present except: Rep. David Haley
Rep. Jonathan Wells

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes

The Committee met to introduce the following 14 bills:

- Improved enforcement (RS 1661)
- Descriptive PAC names (RS 1660)
- Independent expenditure disclosure (RS 1679)
- Sponsor identification in ads and on literature (RS 1690)
- PAC's and Parties will have to report whom they've supported (RS 1659)
- Influencing the nomination or election of a candidate defined (RS 1687)
- Lobbyists required to identify recipients of food and beverages (RS 1622)
- Revolving Door (RS 1619)
- Extend the gift ban (RS 1762)
- Enforcement of Ethics Laws (RS 1623)
- Strengthen the Commission's role in law enforcement (RS 1621)
- Prohibit party PAC's from accepting or soliciting contributions during the session (RS 1617)
- No political fund raising in the capitol building or on the capitol grounds (RS 1692)
- Water supply and distribution districts (Attachment 1.)

Representative Herman Dillon made a motion to introduce the above-mentioned bills, and Rep. Ruby Gilbert seconded. Motion passed.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

TO: House Committee on Governmental Organization
RE: Committee Campaign Finance and Ethics Bills

The committee voted to introduce the following bills on January 15. The subcommittee to which each bill is assigned is indicated after the draft number.

- I. Improved enforcement. Repeal the current requirement that prior to issuing subpoenas, the Commission give suspected violators of ethics and campaign finance laws 30 days to respond to the allegations. (RS 1661) Ethics
- II. Descriptive PAC names. Political action committees will be required to adopt descriptive names. For those PACs affiliated with an organization, the name will have to name the organization or describe the affiliation. For those PACs that are not affiliated with a single organization, the name will have to describe the trade, profession, or primary interest of the contributors. (RS 1660) Campaign Finance
- III. Independent expenditure disclosure. Anyone who expends \$1,000 or more during a calendar year to directly or indirectly influence the nomination or election of a candidate must file a statement of intent as well as expenditure reports. The statement of intent to make expenditures must be filed at least seven days prior to the expenditure. (RS 1679) Campaign Finance
- IV. Sponsor Identification in ads and on literature. Anyone who spends \$1,000 or more to publish or broadcast messages advocating the nomination or election of a candidate must identify themselves in the ad. The identification must include the name of the responsible person and the city or state where the organization or individual is located. (RS 1690) Campaign finance
- V. PACs and Parties will have to report whom they've supported. Expenditure reports filed by treasurers of PACs and parties will have to include the name and address of each candidate on whose behalf an in-kind contribution or independent expenditure in excess of \$50 was made. The report also will have to include the value of the contribution or expenditure and its purpose. (RS 1659) Campaign Finance
- VI. Influencing the nomination or election of a candidate defined. Anyone who engages in express advocacy as that term is defined in federal rules and regulations will be subject to the Campaign Finance Act. (RS1687) Campaign Finance
- VII. Lobbyists required to identify recipients of food and beverages. Lobbyists will have to include in their reports of expenditures for food and beverages the amount expended and the name of any state elected official and the number of guests of that official upon whom the expenditure was made. That reporting requirement will not be applied to events to which the entire Legislature is invited. (RS1622) Ethics

1. **Revolving Door.** Prohibit gubernatorial appointees and state legislators from becoming lobbyists within one year of leaving office. (RS 1619) Ethics
2. **Extend the gift ban.** Legislators, and their staff, candidates for the Legislature, and legislators-elect will be prohibited from soliciting or accepting any gift, except food and beverage, provided because of the person's official position. This prohibition will extend to Legislators and their staff restrictions similar to those imposed on most of the Executive Branch in 1997. (RS1762) Ethics
3. **Enforcement of Ethics Laws.** Persons who advise others to circumvent or violate the ethics laws will be subject to the same penalties as those persons who commit the violations. Conspiracy to violate those laws will be subject to criminal and civil penalties. Allow imposition of a civil penalty for violations of the ethics laws without a finding of specific intent. (RS 1623) Ethics
4. **Strengthen the Commission's role in law enforcement.** The Commission will be authorized to report suspected violations of any criminal law or other law not enforced by the Commission to the appropriate state, federal or local authorities. (RS1621) Ethics
5. **Prohibit party PACs from accepting or soliciting contributions during the session.** The recognized party PACs in the House and Senate will be prohibited from soliciting or accepting contributions from anyone other than individuals during the legislative session. Only individuals could contribute to those PACs during the session. (RS 1617) Campaign Finance
6. **No political fund raising in the capitol building or on the capitol grounds.** All political fund raising activities will be prohibited in the capitol. (RS1692) Campaign Finance