

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 237

**DATE:** February 1, 2007

**Version:** First Engrossment

**Authors:** Morgan and others

**Subject:** Pre-Election Contribution Reports, Contribution Limits, and Affidavits of Contribution

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### Overview

The bill requires initial registration for certain political committees, funds, principal campaign committees, and party units within 24 hours of receiving a loan or contribution that must be reported to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The bill also modifies the threshold and deadline for required reporting of certain loans and contributions to statewide candidates and committees, funds, and party units in the final days of a campaign. Contribution limits for candidates for secretary of state and state auditor are increased. The deadline for submitting affidavits of contribution is made consistent with the deadlines for reporting receipts and expenditures.

#### Section

- 1 First Registration.** Requires new political committees, political funds, principal campaign committees, and party units that organize in the final days leading up to an election to register with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board within 24 hours upon receiving a loan or contribution that requires reporting under section 2 of the bill. The bill does not affect the current 14-day deadline for registration when entities make or receive initial contributions or expenditures that would fall outside of the scope of section 2.
- 2 Pre-Election Reports.** Requires any loan, contribution, or set of contributions from one source totaling \$800 or more to a political committee, political fund, party unit, or candidate in a statewide election be reported to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure board within 24 hours if the loan or contribution is made between the last day included in the final

**Section**

financial report before an election and election day. This lowers the current \$2,000 threshold for required reporting in statewide elections. The \$400 threshold for reporting loans or contributions to candidates in any judicial district or legislative election remains unchanged. Reports must be made either in person or by electronic means.

This section reduces the current 48-hour period for reporting in the final days before an election, and eliminates the existing option for reporting by telegram, mailgram, or certified mail.

- 3 Contribution Limits.** Increases the limits for contributions to candidates for secretary of state and state auditor to \$1,000 in an election year, and \$200 in other years. Current law limits contributions to these candidates to \$500 in an election year, and \$100 in other years.
- 4 Affidavit of Contributions.** Advances the deadline for submission of candidate affidavits of contribution from September 1 to 15 days before a primary election, consistent with the deadline for reporting receipts and expenditures.
- Effective Date.** The bill is effective July 1, 2007, and applies to contributions made on or after that date.