

Session 109 - (1991-1992)

S 0423 General Bill, By Courson, Giese, C.T. Hinson, S.S. Martschink, Matthews, McGill, M.F. Mullinax, O'Dell, T.H. Pope, M.T. Rose, J.V. Smith, N.W. Smith, Thomas, Washington and Wilson

A Bill to enact The Ethics Reform Act of 1991, by amending Sections 8-13-620 and 8-13-630, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to disclosure of and recordkeeping requirements for campaign contributions, so as to require additional disclosure in advance of elections, to provide for more detailed disclosure, and to require all campaign contribution filings to be filed with the State Ethics Commission; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Sections 8-13-640, 8-13-650, 8-13-660, 8-13-670, 8-13-680, 8-13-690, 8-13-700 and 8-13-710 so as to prohibit the acceptance or solicitation of cash campaign contributions in excess of fifty dollars, to allow the acceptance or solicitation of campaign contributions only from individuals and political action committees, prohibit the acceptance of campaign contributions for any one election in excess of one thousand dollars from an individual or five thousand dollars from a political action committee, to require a campaign to establish a checking account and require contributions to be deposited into the account and expenditures to be made by check and provide exceptions, to require campaign printed matter to bear the sponsor's name and address and provide exceptions, to prohibit members of or candidates for the General Assembly from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session, to prohibit candidates from using their campaign funds to contribute to another candidate, to prohibit the conversion of campaign funds or other campaign assets to personal use and to provide for the disposition of surplus campaign funds; to prohibit the use of government personnel and facilities in election campaigns, and to provide exceptions; to amend Sections 8-13-10, 8-13-20, 8-13-110, 8-13-120, 8-13-610, 8-13-810, 8-13-830, and 8-13-850, relating to ethics and the State Ethics Commission, so as to devolve on the State Ethics Commission functions of the Ethics Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, to increase the membership of the State Ethics Commission from six to twelve, require equal representation on the Commission of the two political parties having the largest representation in the General Assembly, to make members ineligible for reappointment, to provide for two panels of six members each to hear ethics matters, to provide for the disposition of complaints against candidates filed with the State Ethics Commission before an election, to provide for an alternate method of prosecuting complaints with the approval of three-fourths of the members, to allow an individual to request an investigation of his own conduct, to clarify the application of reporting requirements to probate judges, to provide for the disposition of complaints filed against members of the General Assembly by referring the matter to the Speaker of the House or President of the Senate, as appropriate, and to repeal Article 5, Chapter 13 of Title 8, relating to the Senate and House of Representatives Ethics Committees; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Sections 8-13-480, 8-13-485, 8-13-495, 8-13-497, and 8-13-832 so as to prohibit members of the General Assembly from appearing at a public hearing conducted by a state board, committee, or commission, and to prohibit members from representing clients before such entities, to prohibit members of the General Assembly from voting on appropriations and appointments for agencies from which they or a business associate receives income, to prohibit state public officials and public employees from accepting things of value from a registered lobbyist aggregating more than one hundred dollars in value in a calendar year, and to provide exceptions, to prohibit former members of the General Assembly from engaging in paid lobbying of legislators within two years of leaving the General Assembly, to require the disclosure of sources of income in excess of one hundred dollars, the exact amount of money received from engaging in games of skill or chance with a registered lobbyist, the identity of interests in property, the source and amount of income in excess of one thousand dollars from an entity employing directly or indirectly a registered lobbyist, and to extend these reporting requirements to household members, to amend Sections 2-17-20 and 2-17-40, relating to the regulation of lobbying, so as to devolve the regulation of lobbying on the State Ethics Commission and to require additional reporting by lobbyists; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Section 2-17-55 and 2-17-57, so as to prohibit registered lobbyists from giving things of value to a state public official or employee aggregating more than one hundred dollars value in a calendar year, and to prohibit registered lobbyists from personally delivering campaign contributions; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Sections 2-1-190 and 8-13-135, so as to provide ethics education for new members of the General Assembly and to provide continuing ethics education programs for public officials and employees; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Section 2-1-195 so as to prohibit members of the General Assembly from being reimbursed for subsistence expenses in excess of expenses incurred; to amend Sections 7-11-15, 7-11-210, and 7-13-40, as amended, relating to elections, so as to provide for a primary date on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in September and to revise filing dates; to amend Section 16-9-210, relating to giving or offering bribes to officers, so as to extend the offense to sexual favors; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Section 8-13-455 so as to prohibit legislators from serving ex officio on state boards and commissions, and to provide exceptions; and to amend the 1976 Code by adding Section 8-13-487 so as to prohibit legislators from accepting honoraria for speeches given in this State or any other place if the organization operates in this State.

01/09/91 Senate Introduced and read first time SJ-20

01/09/91 Senate Referred to Committee on Judiciary SJ-23