

April 5, 2001

S 1002. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT. TO STRENGTHEN THE CAMPAIGN ENFORCEMENT AND DISCLOSURE LAWS. (1) Amends GS 163-278.34 to add a new civil penalty (in addition to current criminal provisions) for making or receiving an illegal campaign contribution. Authorizes the State Board of Elections to impose a civil fine of up to \$20,000 or three times the contribution, whichever is greater, and to issue cease and desist orders, to order remedial actions, and to publicly reprimand the violator. For reasonable cause shown, the Board may waive the civil penalty in whole or in part. (2) Amends GS 163-278.27 to specify that the statute of limitations for a criminal violation of the campaign finance laws runs from the day the last report is due to be filed with the appropriate board of elections for the election cycle for which the violation occurred. (3) With respect to the filing of campaign finance reports for municipal elections, amends GS 163-278.40B (for municipalities using partisan elections), 163-278.40C (for municipalities using nonpartisan election and runoff), 163-278.40D (for municipalities using nonpartisan primary and election), and 163-278.40E (for municipalities using nonpartisan plurality elections), to add a requirement for a filing 35 days before the relevant election and replacing the current annual reports with semiannual reports. (4) Amends GS 163-278.9(j) to specify that the requirement for electronic filing by treasurers of covered campaigns kicks in when the cumulative total for the election cycle for contributions, expenditures, or loans, reaches \$5,000.

Intro. by Gulley.

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 103

May 22, 2001

S 1002. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT. Intro. 4/5/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Changes standard for waiver of late penalty for failure to make timely filing to "good cause" (was, "reasonable cause"). Adds provision requiring State Board to consult with the appropriate district attorney responsible for initiating criminal process for violations of campaign finance statutes in question before assessing civil penalties or imposing civil remedy for such violation.

August 6, 2001

S 1002. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT. Intro. 4/5/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Sets maximum civil penalty for illegal contributions at three times the amount of the contribution instead of the greater of \$20,000 or three times the amount of the contribution. Provides that a violation of the political campaign contributions and expenditures law is not a misdemeanor unless the violation is intentional and willful.

September 5, 2001

S 1002. CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT. Intro. 4/5/01. Conference report recommends the following changes to 3rd edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Amends GS 163-278.27 to make it misdemeanor to intentionally (was, intentionally and willfully) violate campaign disclosure laws.

September 25, 2001

SL 2001-419 (S 1002). CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT. AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE CAMPAIGN ENFORCEMENT AND DISCLOSURE LAWS. Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 4/5/01, 5/22/01, 8/6/01, and 9/5/01. Enacted Sept. 22, 2001. Effective Jan. 1, 2002.