

April 18, 2007

**H 1735. OMNIBUS CAMPAIGN CHANGES.** Filed 4/18/07. *TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES RELATED TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.*

To be summarized in tomorrow's *Daily Bulletin*.

**Intro. by Goodwin.**

GS 163

April 19, 2007

**H 1735. OMNIBUS CAMPAIGN CHANGES.** Filed 4/18/07. *TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES RELATED TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.*

Under current law, GS 163-278.9 requires the treasurer of each candidate and political committee to file a variety of reports regarding campaign contributions and expenditures with the State Board of Elections (SBE). This act amends GS 163-278.23 by removing a requirement that the Executive Director of the SBE (ED) issue written opinions to candidates, the communication media, political committees, referendum committees, or other entities upon request, regarding filing procedures and compliance with GS Chapter 163, Article 22A, regulating contributions and expenditures in political campaigns. Enacts new GS 163-278.23A requiring the ED to render advisory opinions having a prospective application only on specific questions regarding the application of "this Article" (provides that for purposes of this section, the term "Article" means GS Chapter 163, Articles 22A, 22B, 22D, 22E, and 22F) at the written request of any person affected by this Article or on the motion of the ED. Provides that reliance on a requested written advisory opinion on a specific matter immunizes the person requesting the written advisory opinion on that matter from investigation by the SBE. Requires the ED to publish advisory opinions, edited as necessary to protect the identities of the individuals requesting opinions, at least once a year. Provides that requests for advisory opinions and issued advisory opinions are confidential and not public records except as provided for publication by the ED. Amends GS 163-278.22(7) providing that information obtained by the SBE during investigations with respect to reports filed are to be treated as confidential until a hearing is held, if any. Amends GS 163-278.11(a), pertaining to the content of statements of receipt expenditures, to require submission of a report of the list of financial obligations incurred by a candidate or political committee but not paid.

**Intro. by Goodwin.**

GS 163