

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 1229
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30604-LUye-107

Short Title: Strip Corporations of Political Spending. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Morey.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT CORPORATE
3 POLITICAL SPENDING POWERS.

4 Whereas, corporations are artificial entities created by state law for the purpose of
5 furthering certain economic goals; and

6 Whereas, corporations do not exist without law; and

7 Whereas, *Citizens United* granted corporations the right to unlimited political
8 spending with little transparency but did not prohibit states from exercising their authority to
9 define corporate entities; and

10 Whereas, *Citizens United* greatly compromised our system of democracy and diluted
11 individuals' voices; and

12 Whereas, only the State can grant corporations the power to spend politically; and

13 Whereas, a 2023 Pew Research poll found that eight in 10 Americans, including large
14 majorities of both Democrats and Republicans, believe there is too much corporate money in
15 politics; and

16 Whereas, elections are about people, not unlimited corporate spending and control;
17 and

18 Whereas, this act will return power back to the voters and restore integrity in
19 elections; Now, therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** Article VIII of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding
22 a new section to read:

23 **"Sec. 3. Limitation on corporate powers.**

24 A person, other than a human being, may not exercise political spending power in this State.
25 This limitation does not apply to political committees acting in a manner prescribed by law or to
26 a person distributing bona fide news, commentary, or editorial content if the person publishing
27 the content is owned or controlled by a political party, a political committee, or a candidate. Any
28 action violating the limitation of this section is ultra vires and void and shall result, as a matter
29 of law, in the withdrawal of all legal benefits the State confers on the person, including existence,
30 limited liability, or the authorization to transact business, subject only to reinstatement by act of
31 the General Assembly. A person organized or existing under the laws of another jurisdiction that
32 directly or indirectly undertakes, finances, or directs the exercise of political spending power in
33 this State is conclusively deemed to be transacting business in this State. For purposes of this
34 section, political spending power is the legal capacity to expend money or anything of value to
35 influence the outcome of a vote of the electorate."



