SENATE BILL No. 418

By Committee on Ethics and Elections

1-21

9 AN ACT concerning campaign finance; relating to electioneering communication; establishing certain reporting requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) Any person who spends or contracts to spend an amount of \$500 or more per calendar year for any electioneering communication shall submit a campaign finance report prescribed and provided by the governmental ethics commission for each electioneering communication, which shall include:

- (1) The name of the clearly identified candidate mentioned in the electioneering communication;
- (2) the name, street address, city, state and zip code of each individual or other entity that contributes more than \$500 per year to such person for an electioneering communication. In addition, the report shall list the occupation of any individual who contributed \$500 or more;
- (3) the name, street address, city, state and zip code of the vendor to whom a payment of more than \$500 for such electioneering communication is made or contracted to be made; and
- (4) the amount spent on or contracted to be spent on such electioneering communication. If the person making the electioneering communication is an individual, such reports shall also include the occupation of such individual. Reports required by this section shall be in addition to any other reports required by law.
- (b) (1) (A) For an electioneering communication concerning a candidate for state office, the report required by subsection (a) shall be filed only with the secretary of state.
- (B) For an electioneering communication concerning a candidate for local office, the report required by subsection (a) shall be filed in the office of the county election officer of the county in which the name of the candidate is on the ballot.
- (2) Except as required by paragraph (3), each report required by subsection (a) shall be filed in time to be received in the offices required in accordance with the times set forth in K.S.A. 25-4148 and amendments thereto.
 - (3) For any electioneering communication occurring during the 11

days preceding the election, the report required by subsection (a) shall be filed on or before the close of the second business day following the day in which such funds are spent or contracted to be spent for such electioneering communication.

- (c) For the purpose of this section:
- (1) "Electioneering communication" means any communication that reaches 500 or more persons broadcast by television or radio, printed in a newspaper or on a billboard, directly mailed or delivered by hand to personal residences or otherwise distributed that:
 - (A) Unambiguously refers to any clearly identified candidate;
- (B) is broadcast, printed, mailed, delivered or distributed within 30 days before a primary election or 60 days before a general election; or
- (C) is broadcast to, printed in a newspaper distributed to, mailed to, delivered by hand to or otherwise distributed to an audience that includes members of the electorate for such public office.
 - (2) "Electioneering communication" does not include:
- (A) Any news articles, editorial endorsements, opinion or commentary writings, or letters to the editor printed in a newspaper, magazine or other periodical not owned or controlled by a candidate or political party;
- (B) any editorial endorsements or opinions aired by a broadcast facility not owned or controlled by a candidate or political party;
- (C) any communication by persons made in the regular course and scope of their business or any communication made by a membership organization solely to members of such organization and their families;
- (D) any communication that refers to any candidate only as part of the popular name of a bill or statute;
- (E) any communication made solely to promote a candidate debate or forum that is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring such debate or forum; or
- (F) any communication made as part of a nonpartisan activity designed to encourage individuals to vote or register to vote.
- (d) Any federally registered political action committee that pays for electioneering communications in Kansas, which has reported all of its contributions and expenditures to the federal elections commission in compliance with the federal elections campaign act (FECA) shall not be subject to the disclosures to the state of Kansas under section (a), but shall be subject to all other disclosures under this section.
- (e) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the campaign finance act.
- Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.