

HOUSE BILL NO. 71

INTRODUCED BY F. GARNER

BY REQUEST OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING DEADLINES FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES; AMENDING SECTION 13-37-226, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 13-37-226, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-37-226. Time for filing reports. (1) Except as provided in 13-37-206 and 13-37-225(3), a candidate shall file reports required by 13-37-225(1)(a) containing the information required by 13-37-229, 13-37-231, and 13-37-232 as follows:

(a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in which funds are received or expended during the year or years prior to the election year that the candidate expects to be on the ballot and ending in the final quarter of the year preceding the year of an election in which the candidate participates;

(b) except as provided in subsection (4)(a), the 20th day of March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November in the year of an election in which the candidate participates;

(c) within 2 business days of receiving a contribution of \$100 or more if received between the 15th day of the month preceding an election in which the candidate participates and the day of the election;

(d) within 2 business days of making an expenditure of \$100 or more if made between the 15th day of the month preceding an election in which the candidate participates and the day of the election;

(e) semiannually on the 10th day of March and September, starting in the year following an election in which the candidate participates until the candidate files a closing report as specified in 13-37-228(3); and

(f) as provided by subsection (3).

(2) Except as provided in 13-37-206, 13-37-225(3), and 13-37-227, a political committee shall file

1 reports required by 13-35-225(1)(a) containing the information required by 13-37-229, 13-37-231, and 13-37-
2 232 as follows:

3 (a) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning with the calendar quarter in
4 which the political committee receives a contribution or makes an expenditure after an individual becomes a
5 candidate or an issue becomes a ballot issue, as defined in 13-1-101(6)(b), and ending in the final quarter of
6 the year preceding the year in which the candidate or the ballot issue appears on the ballot;

7 (b) except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the 30th day of March, April, May, June, August,
8 September, October, and November in the year of an election in which the political committee participates;

9 (c) within 2 business days of receiving a contribution, except as provided in 13-37-232, of \$500 or
10 more if received between the 25th day of the month before an election in which the political committee
11 participates and the day of the election; ~~and~~

12 (d) within 2 business days of making an expenditure of \$500 or more that is made between the 25th
13 day of the month before an election in which the political committee participates and the day of the election;

14 (e) quarterly, due on the 5th day following a calendar quarter, beginning in the calendar quarter
15 following a year of an election in which the political committee participates until the political committee files a
16 closing report as specified in 13-37-228(3); and

17 (f) as provided by subsection (3).

18 (3) In addition to the reports required by subsections (1), ~~and (2)~~, and (4), if a candidate or a political
19 committee participates in a special election, the candidate or political committee shall file reports as follows:

20 (a) a report on the 60th, 35th, and 12th days preceding the date of the special election; and

21 (b) 20 days after the special election.

22 (4) (a) A candidate for a municipal office who participates in an election held in an odd-numbered
23 year shall file the reports required in subsection (1) on the 20th day of June, July, August, September, October,
24 and November of the year of the election in which the candidate participates.

25 (b) A political committee that participates in a municipal election held in an odd-numbered year shall file
26 the reports required in subsection (2) on the 30th day of June, July, August, September, October, and
27 November of the year of the election in which the committee participates.

28 ~~(4)(5)~~ Except as provided by 13-37-206, candidates for a local office and political committees that

1 receive contributions or make expenditures referencing a particular local issue or a local candidate shall file the
2 reports specified in subsections (1) through ~~(3)~~ (4) only if the total amount of contributions received or the total
3 amount of funds expended for all elections in a campaign exceeds \$500.

4 ~~(5)~~(6) A report required by this section must cover contributions received and expenditures made
5 pursuant to the time periods specified in 13-37-228.

6 ~~(6)~~(7) A political committee may file a closing report prior to the date in 13-37-228(3) and after the
7 complete termination of its contribution and expenditure activity during an election cycle.

8 ~~(7)~~(8) For the purposes of this section:

9 (a) a candidate participates in an election by attempting to secure nomination or election to an office
10 that appears on the ballot; and

11 (b) a political committee participates in an election by receiving a contribution or making an
12 expenditure."

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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