

HOUSE BILL NO. 577

INTRODUCED BY J. HAMILTON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE FILING OF REPORTS BY COMMITTEES HEADQUARTERED OUTSIDE OF MONTANA; REVISING THE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-37-227, MCA."

WHEREAS, independent committees headquartered outside of Montana often use federal forms to respond to Montana filing requirements; and

WHEREAS, requirements for Montana-based committees include a different form that requires specific details that are absent from the federal filing forms; and

WHEREAS, federal reports do not always include information reported on the same timelines as Montana reports, leaving Montanans with a gap in what information they can access related to specific campaigns.

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

**Section 1.** Section 13-37-227, MCA, is amended to read:

**"13-37-227. Comprehensive report when several candidates or issues involved.** (1) The

commissioner shall adopt rules that will permit political committees, including political parties or joint fundraising committees, to file copies of a single comprehensive report when they support or oppose more than one candidate or issue. The commissioner shall adopt rules under which:

(a)        committees filing periodic reports with the federal election commission ~~and committees headquartered outside the state of Montana~~ shall report in accordance with ~~this title~~ Title 13; and

(b)        committees headquartered outside of the state shall report using the same forms in substantially the same manner as a Montana committee.

(2)        The commissioner shall inspect each report submitted pursuant to subsection (1)(b) within 10 business days."

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