

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

580

By: Senator Allen

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'DISCLOSURE ACT FOR LEGISLATION  
BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Short title. This act shall be known as the "Disclosure Act for Legislation Before the General Assembly."

SECTION 2. Definitions. As used in this act unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Elected official" means the governor or any other person holding an elective position who is not a member of the Arkansas General Assembly.

(2) "Legislation" means a bill, draft of a bill, or concept which will require legislation to be implemented and which is proposed for consideration or for which legislation is filed and pending in the Arkansas General Assembly.

(3) "Legislation committee" means any elected official or person other than an individual who receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of attempting to influence the passage or defeat of legislation.

(4) "Person" means any individual, business, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, labor organization, company, corporation, association, committee, or any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.

(5) (A) "Contribution" means, whether direct or indirect, advances, deposits, transfers of funds, contracts, or obligations, whether or not legally enforceable, payments, gifts, subscriptions, assessments, payment for services, dues, advancements, forbearance, loans, pledge or promise of money or anything of value, whether or not legally enforceable, to a person for the purpose of influencing the passage, or defeat of legislation.

(B) "Contribution" includes the purchase of tickets for events such as dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fund raising events and the granting of discounts or rebates by television and radio stations and newspapers not extended on an equal basis to all persons seeking to influence the passage, or defeat of legislation.

(C) "Contribution" shall not include noncompensated, nonreimbursed volunteer personal services or travel.

(6) "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, distribution, gift, loan, or advance of money or anything of value, and a contract, promise, or agreement to make an expenditure, for goods, services, materials or facilities for the purpose of influencing the passage, or defeat of legislation.

(7) "Contribution and expenditure" shall not include activities designed solely to encourage individuals to register to vote or to vote, or any communication by a bona fide church or religious denomination to its own members or adherents for the sole purpose of protecting the right to practice the religious tenets of such church or religious denomination, and "expenditure" shall not include one made for communication by a person strictly with the person's paid members or shareholders.

SECTION 3. Any person who knowingly fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be fined an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or be imprisoned for not more than one year or both.

SECTION 4. (1) A legislation committee shall file a statement of organization with the Secretary of State within ten (10) days after a legislation committee is formed. The Secretary of State shall maintain such statement of organization until notified of the committee's dissolution. A legislation committee failing to file a statement of organization required by this section shall pay a late filing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day the statement remains not filed.

(2) The statement of organization shall include the following information:

(a) The name, the street address, and where available the telephone number of the committee. A committee address and telephone number may be that of the residence of an officer or director of the committee.

(b) The name, street address, and where available the telephone number of the treasurer and other principal officers or directors of the committee.

(c) The name and address of each financial institution in which the committee deposits money or anything else of monetary value.

(d) The name of each person who or that is a member of the committee. A person that is not an individual may be listed by its name without also listing its own members, if any.

(e) A brief statement identifying the substance of legislation whose passage or defeat the committee seeks to influence.

(3) When any of the information required in a statement of organization is changed, an amendment shall be filed within ten (10) days to reflect the change, except that changes in individual membership may be filed when the next campaign statement is required. A committee failing to file a change as required shall pay a late filing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day the change remains not filed.

(4) Upon dissolution, a legislation committee shall so notify the Secretary of State in writing.

SECTION 5. A legislation committee which either receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation shall file with the Secretary of State financial reports as required by Section 6 of this Act.

SECTION 6. A financial report of a legislation committee as required by Section 5 of this Act, shall contain the following information:

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of the committee filing the statement.

(b) The total amount of contributions received during the period covered by the financial report, the total amount of expenditures made during the period covered by the financial report, and the cumulative amount of those totals for all legislation.

(c) The balance of cash and cash equivalents on hand at the beginning and the end of the period covered by the financial report.

(d) The total amount of contributions received during the period covered by the financial statement from persons who contributed two hundred fifty

dollars (\$250.00) or less, and the cumulative amount of that total for defeat or passage of legislation.

(e) The total amount of contributions received during the period covered by the financial statement from persons who contributed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) or more, and the cumulative amount of that total for defeat or passage of legislation.

(f) The name and street address of each person from whom a contribution(s) exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) was received during the period covered by the financial report, together with the amount contributed, the date of receipt, and the cumulative amount contributed by that person for each ballot question.

(g) The name and street address of each person to whom expenditures totaling two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) or more were made, together with the amount of each separate expenditure to each person during the period covered by the financial report and the purpose of the expenditure.

SECTION 7. The financial reports identified in Section 6 of this Act shall be filed every thirty (30) days after the first receipt of a contribution or the first expenditure of a legislation committee. Further, a final financial report shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the final passage or defeat of the legislation in the General Assembly.

SECTION 8. The financial reports identified in Section 6 of this Act shall be verified by affidavit by the person filing them to the effect that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief the information disclosed is a complete, true and accurate financial statement of contributions or expenditures. A legislation committee who files a late financial report shall pay a late filing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day the report remains unfiled.

SECTION 9. All statements of organization and financial reports required by this Act shall be open to public inspection at the office of the Secretary of State during regular office hours.

SECTION 10. No legislation committee shall accept any contribution in cash, meaning currency or coin, which exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

No legislation committee shall make an expenditure in cash which exceeds fifty dollars (\$50.00) to influence the passage or defeat of legislation. No contributions shall be made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than the name by which the person is identified for legal purposes. No person shall make an anonymous contribution totaling fifty dollars (\$50.00) or more. Any such anonymous contribution actually received by any legislation committee shall be promptly paid by the recipient to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 11. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 12. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.