

## Summary of CS/CS/CS for House Bill 569 (Ch. 2013-37, Laws of Florida)

(Signed into law on May 1, 2013; Effective November 1, 2013, except as noted below.)

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- **Transition to Statutory Revocation of Committees of Continuous Existence (CCE):**
  - *Repeal.*
    - ✓ From May 1, 2013 until September 30, 2013, notwithstanding other laws, CCEs may make unlimited contributions to political committees.
    - ✓ As of August 1, 2013, CCEs may no longer accept contributions.
    - ✓ As of September 30, 2013, all CCEs certifications are revoked by operation of law and accounts must be at \$0.
- **Campaign Finance Reports:**
  - *Frequency.* Increases the frequency of campaign finance reporting for candidates and committees (excluding political party committees), with monthly reports until 60 days before the primary election; thereafter, reports are due as follows:
    - Statewide Candidates and PCs/Electioneering Communication Organizations (ECOs) who file with Division of Elections –
      - ✓ WEEKLY full reports of contributions and expenditures to the Friday prior to the general election; and,
      - ✓ DAILY contribution -only reports beginning on the 10th day before the general election and ending on the Thursday (for statewide candidates and PCs) or Monday (for ECOs) before the general election.
    - Other Candidates and PCs/ECOs who file with a filing officer other than the Division of Elections –
      - ✓ BI-WEEKLY full reports of contributions and expenditures beginning on the 60th day before the primary election and continuing through the Friday before the general election, with an additional report due on the 25th and 11th days before the primary and general elections.
  - *Persons running for party executive committee positions.*
    - Requires such person who receives contributions or makes expenditures to file a single campaign finance report on the Friday before the Primary election.

- *Reporting of dues to a political committee.*
  - Allows multiple, uniform contributions of less than \$250 per calendar year from the same person to be reported in the aggregate, with an annual disclosure required July 1 each year.
  - The identity of each person making such uniform contribution must be reported to the filing officer by July 1 of each calendar year, or, in a general election year, no later than the 60th day immediately preceding the primary election.
- **Contribution Limits:**
  - *To candidates.* Except for political parties or affiliated party committees (APCs), no person or PC may contribute in excess of the following amounts to any candidate:
    - Statewide office or Supreme Court Justice: \$3000 per election.
    - All other candidates: \$1000 per election.
    - Unemancipated child under age 18 may now contribute over \$100 per election.
  - *From party to candidate.*
    - Statewide candidate: \$250,000 aggregate from all party sources & APCs.
    - Other candidate: \$50,000 aggregate from a county party executive committee + \$50,000 from all other party or APC sources.
  - *To political committees.* Unlimited, regardless of type of political committee.
- **Campaign Account Designation:** Eliminates the required words “Campaign Account.” Account need only contain the name of the candidate or committee within it; prior verbatim language not required.
- **Contributions When Candidate Switches Office:** The amount of the prior contribution for the former office counts toward the contribution limit for the new office.
- **3-Pack Advertisement for Political Committees:** 3-pack ads are no longer applicable to political committees, *i.e.*, the cost for obtaining time, space, or services in a communications medium jointly endorsing 3 or more candidates by a political committee constitutes a contribution to such candidates.
- **Campaign Fundraiser/Political Disclaimer:** Campaign fundraiser advertisements and tickets must comply with political disclaimer requirements of s. 106.143, Fla. Stat.
- **Disposition of Surplus Funds:**

- *Reimbursement for election assessment.* Repeals existing law that required petition candidates to pay toward the 1% election assessment prior to disposing of surplus funds.
- *Surplus funds donated to political party.* A candidate may not give more than \$25,000 to his or her political party.
- *Carryover to future campaign.*
  - ✓ A candidate elected to state office may retain up to \$20,000 in campaign account (or in interest bearing account or certificate of deposit) for use in next campaign for the same office.
  - ✓ If candidate does not subsequently qualify for the same office, the retained funds must be disposed of within 90 days of the last day of qualifying per specified disposal requirements.
- **Office Accounts:**
  - *Permissible maximum amounts.*
    - ✓ Statewide office: \$50,000
    - ✓ Multicounty office: \$10,000
    - ✓ Legislative: \$10,000 x # of years in term
    - ✓ County or lesser office: \$5,000 x # of years in term
    - ✓ Supreme Court: \$6,000
    - ✓ Other judges: \$3,000
  - *Legitimate office account expenses.* Section 106.141, Fla. Stat., now contains a non-exhaustive list of permissible expenses.
- **Statewide Electronic Filing System:** By December 1, 2013, the Division must submit a proposal to the Legislature for a mandatory statewide electronic filing system for all state and local campaign finance reports.