**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 8‑13‑100 AND 8‑13‑1300, BOTH AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BOTH RELATING TO THE DEFINITIONS OF “CANDIDATE” FOR PURPOSES OF THE ETHICS, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT, SO AS TO SPECIFY THAT A “CANDIDATE” IS ALSO A PERSON THAT MAINTAINS AN OPEN BANK ACCOUNT CONTAINING CONTRIBUTIONS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 8‑13‑1302, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS OF CONTRIBUTIONS, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE SUPERVISORY OFFICE TO REQUEST IN WRITING THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN MANDATORY RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF VERIFYING CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FORMS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 8‑13‑100(5) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 6 of 1995, is further amended to read:

“(5) ‘Candidate’ means a person who seeks appointment, nomination for election, or election to a state or local office, ~~or~~ authorizes or knowingly permits the collection or disbursement of money for the promotion of his candidacy or election, or maintains an open bank account containing contributions. It also means a person on whose behalf write‑in votes are solicited if the person has knowledge of ~~such~~ the solicitation. ‘Candidate’ does not include a person within the meaning of Section 431(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1976.”

SECTION 2. Section 8‑13‑1300(4) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 76 of 2003, is further amended to read:

“(4) ‘Candidate’ means a person:

(a) ~~a person~~ who seeks appointment, nomination for election, or election to a statewide or local office, or authorizes or knowingly permits the collection or disbursement of money for the promotion of his candidacy or election;

(b) ~~a person~~ who is exploring whether or not to seek election at the state or local level; ~~or~~

(c) ~~a person~~ on whose behalf write‑in votes are solicited if the person has knowledge of ~~such~~ the solicitation; or

(d) who maintains an open bank account containing contributions. ‘Candidate’ does not include a candidate within the meaning of Section 431(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1976.”

SECTION 3. Section 8‑13‑1302 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 76 of 2003 is further amended to read:

“Section 8‑13‑1302. (A) A candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee must maintain and preserve an account of:

(1) the total amount of contributions accepted by the candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee;

(2) the name and address of each person making a contribution and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution;

(3) the total amount of expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee;

(4) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure;

(5) all receipted bills, canceled checks, or other proof of payment for each expenditure; and

(6) the occupation of each person making a contribution.

(B) The candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee must maintain and preserve all receipted bills and accounts required by this article for four years.

(C) An appropriate supervisory office may request in writing, disclosure of any records required to be maintained by this section, subject to the limitations of Section 8‑13‑320(9)(d). This request must be for purposes of verifying campaign disclosure forms filed pursuant to Section 8‑13‑1308. A candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee must comply with a written request from an appropriate supervisory office within thirty days.”

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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