

# HOUSE BILL No. 1597

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 3-9-4-4.

**Synopsis:** Campaign finance reports. Requires candidates for legislative offices to file campaign finance reports electronically.

**Effective:** July 1, 2019.

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## Mayfield

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January 22, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.

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First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1597

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 3-9-4-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2015,  
2 SECTION 73, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 4. (a) The election division shall develop a filing  
4 and coding system consistent with the purposes of this article. The  
5 election division and each county election board shall use the filing and  
6 coding system. The coding system must provide:  
7 (1) not more than ten (10) codes to account for various campaign  
8 expenditure items; and  
9 (2) a clear explanation of the kinds of expenditure items that must  
10 be accounted for under each code.  
11 (b) The election division shall develop and use a computer system  
12 to store campaign finance reports required to be filed under IC 3-9-5-6,  
13 IC 3-9-5-10, and IC 3-9-5-20.1. The computer system must enable the  
14 election division to do the following:  
15 (1) Identify all candidates or committees that received  
16 contributions from a contributor over the past three (3) years.  
17 (2) Identify all contributors to a candidate or committee over the



1 past three (3) years.

2 (3) Provide for electronic submission, retrieval, storage, and  
3 disclosure of campaign finance reports of candidates for the  
4 following:

5 (A) Legislative office.

6 (B) State office.

7 The election division shall provide training at no cost to  
8 candidates to enable candidates described in this subdivision to  
9 file campaign finance reports electronically.

10 (c) The election division shall notify each candidate's committee  
11 that the election division will provide at the committee's request at no  
12 cost a standardized software program to permit the committee to install  
13 the software on a computer and generate an electronic version of the  
14 reports and statements required to be filed with the election division  
15 under this article. However, the election division is not required to  
16 provide or alter the software program to make the program compatible  
17 for installation or operation on a specific computer.

18 (d) This subsection applies to the following committees:

19 (1) A committee for a candidate seeking election to a state office.

20 **(2) A committee for a candidate seeking election to a**  
21 **legislative office.**

22 ~~(2)~~ **(3)** A political action committee that has received more than  
23 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in contributions since the close  
24 of the previous reporting period.

25 The committee must file electronically the report or statement required  
26 under this article with the election division using a standardized  
27 software program supplied to the committee without charge under  
28 subsection (c) or another format approved by the election division. An  
29 electronic filing approved by the election division under this subsection  
30 may not require manual reentry into a computer system of the data  
31 contained in the report or statement in order to make the data available  
32 to the general public under subsection (g).

33 (e) This subsection applies to an electronic submission under  
34 subsection (b)(3). An electronic submission must be in a format  
35 previously approved by the election division that permits the election  
36 division to print out a hard copy of the report after the receipt of the  
37 electronic submission from the candidate. Filing of a report occurs  
38 under IC 3-5-2-24.5 on the date and at the time electronically recorded  
39 by the election division's computer system. If a discrepancy exists  
40 between the text of the electronic submission and the printed report, the  
41 text of the printed report prevails until an amendment is filed under this  
42 article to correct the discrepancy.



1           (f) The election division is not required to accept an electronic  
2 submission unless the submission complies with subsection (b)(3).  
3 Upon receiving approval from the commission, the election division  
4 may accept an electronic submission from candidates, committees, or  
5 persons described in subsection (b)(3).

6           (g) The election division shall make campaign finance reports stored  
7 on the computer system under subsection (b) available to the general  
8 public through an on-line service.

