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SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1677

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Walsh, Gregerson, and Pollet; by request of Public Disclosure Commission)

- 1 AN ACT Relating to improving transparency in campaign finance
- 2 disclosure; and amending RCW 42.17A.205, 42.17A.207, 42.17A.235,
- 3 42.17A.255, 42.17A.260, 42.17A.265, 42.17A.345, and 42.17A.785.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17A.205 and 2019 c 428 s 14 are each amended to 6 read as follows:
 - (1) Every political committee shall file a statement of organization with the commission. The statement must be filed within two weeks after organization or within two weeks after the date the committee first has the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in any election campaign, whichever is earlier. A political committee organized within ((the last three weeks)) the period beginning the first day of the last full month before an election and having the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures during and for that election campaign shall file a statement of organization within three business days after its organization or when it first has the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in the election campaign.
- 19 (2) The statement of organization shall include but not be 20 limited to:

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1 (a) The name, address, and electronic contact information of the committee;

- (b) The names, addresses, and electronic contact information of all related or affiliated committees or other persons, and the nature of the relationship or affiliation;
- (c) The names, addresses, and titles of its officers; or if it has no officers, the names, addresses, and titles of its responsible leaders;
- 9 (d) The name, address, and electronic contact information of its 10 treasurer and depository;
 - (e) A statement whether the committee is a continuing one;
 - (f) The name, office sought, and party affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is supporting or opposing, and, if the committee is supporting the entire ticket of any party, the name of the party;
 - (g) The ballot proposition concerned, if any, and whether the committee is in favor of or opposed to such proposition;
 - (h) What distribution of surplus funds will be made, in accordance with RCW 42.17A.430, in the event of dissolution;
 - (i) Such other information as the commission may by rule prescribe, in keeping with the policies and purposes of this chapter;
 - (j) The name, address, and title of any person who authorizes expenditures or makes decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee; and
 - (k) The name, address, and title of any person who is paid by or is a volunteer for a candidate or political committee to perform ministerial functions and who performs ministerial functions on behalf of two or more candidates or committees.
 - (3) No two political committees may have the same name.
 - (4) Any material change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization shall be reported to the commission within the ten days following the change.
 - (5) As used in this section, the "name" of a sponsored committee must include the name of the person who is the sponsor of the committee. If more than one person meets the definition of sponsor, the name of the committee must include the name of at least one sponsor, but may include the names of other sponsors. A person may sponsor only one political committee for the same elected office or same ballot proposition per election cycle.

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1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17A.207 and 2019 c 428 s 15 are each amended to read as follows:

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- (1) (a) An incidental committee must file a statement of organization with the commission within two weeks after the date the committee first:
- (i) Has the expectation of making any expenditures aggregating at least ((twenty-five thousand dollars)) \$25,000 in a calendar year in any election campaign, or to a political committee; and
- 9 (ii) Is required to disclose a payment received under RCW 10 42.17A.240(2)(d).
 - (b) If an incidental committee first meets the criteria requiring filing a statement of organization as specified in (a) of this subsection ((in the last three weeks)) within the period beginning the first day of the last full month before an election, then it must file the statement of organization within three business days.
- 16 (2) The statement of organization must include but is not limited 17 to:
- 18 (a) The name, address, and electronic contact information of the 19 committee;
 - (b) The names and addresses of all related or affiliated political or incidental committees or other persons, and the nature of the relationship or affiliation;
 - (c) The names, addresses, and titles of its officers; or if it has no officers, the names, addresses, and titles of its responsible leaders and the name of the person designated as the treasurer of the incidental committee;
 - (d) The name, office sought, and party affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is supporting or opposing if the committee contributes directly to a candidate and, if donating to a political committee, the name and address of that political committee;
 - (e) The ballot proposition concerned, if any, and whether the committee is in favor of or opposed to such proposition; and
 - (f) Such other information as the commission may by rule prescribe, in keeping with the policies and purposes of this chapter.
- 36 (3) Any material change in information previously submitted in a 37 statement of organization must be reported to the commission within 38 the ten days following the change.

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Sec. 3. RCW 42.17A.235 and 2019 c 428 s 20 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) In addition to the information required under RCW 42.17A.205 and 42.17A.210, each candidate or political committee must file with the commission a report of all contributions received and expenditures made as a political committee on the next reporting date pursuant to the timeline established in this section.
- (b) In addition to the information required under RCW 42.17A.207 and 42.17A.210, on the day an incidental committee files a statement of organization with the commission, each incidental committee must file with the commission a report of any election campaign expenditures under RCW 42.17A.240(((6))) (7), as well as the source of the ((ten)) 10 largest cumulative payments of ((ten) thousand dollars)) \$10,000 or greater it received in the current calendar year from a single person, including any persons tied as the ((tenth)) 10th largest source of payments it received, if any.
- (2) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee, or an incidental committee, required to file a statement of organization under this chapter, shall file with the commission a report, for each election in which a candidate, political committee, or incidental committee is participating, containing the information required by RCW 42.17A.240 at the following intervals:
- (a) On the ((twenty-first day and the seventh)) 34th day, the 20th day, and the sixth day immediately preceding the date ((ton which)) of the general election ((ton which)); ((tond))
 - (b) On the 20th day and the sixth day immediately preceding the date of the primary or special election; and
- $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ On the ((tenth)) $\underline{10th}$ day of the first full month after the election.
 - (3) (a) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee shall file with the commission a report on the ((tenth)) 10th day of each month during which the candidate or political committee is not ((participating in an election campaign)) otherwise required to report under subsection (2) of this section, only if the committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last such report exceed ((two hundred dollars)) \$200.
- 39 (b) Each incidental committee shall file with the commission a 40 report on the ((tenth)) 10th day of each month during which the

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incidental committee is not otherwise required to report under this section only if the committee has:

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- (i) Received a payment that would change the information required under RCW 42.17A.240(2)(d) as included in its last report; or
- (ii) Made any election campaign expenditure reportable under RCW $42.17A.240((\frac{6}{10}))$ ince its last report, and the total election campaign expenditures made since the last report exceed ((two hundred dollars)) \$200.
- (4) The ((report)) reports filed ((twenty-one)) 34 days, 20 days, and six days before the general election and 20 days and six days before the primary or special election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made ((as of)) from the closing date of the last report filed through the end of ((one business day)) two calendar days before the date of ((the report)) each filing. ((The report filed seven days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of one business day before the date of the report.)) Reports filed on the ((tenth)) 10th day of the month shall report all contributions received and expenditures made from the closing date of the last report filed through the last day of the month preceding the date of the current report.
- (5) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month preceding the date of the special election, or for the period beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date of the general election, and ending on the date of that special or general election, each Monday the treasurer for a candidate or a political committee shall file with the commission a report of each bank deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The report shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds and the amount contributed by each person. However, persons who contribute no more than ((twenty-five dollars)) \$25 in the aggregate are not required to be identified in the report. A copy of the report shall be retained by the treasurer for the treasurer's records. In the event of deposits made by candidates, political committee members, or paid staff other than the treasurer, the copy shall be immediately provided to the treasurer for the treasurer's records. Each report shall be certified as correct by the treasurer.
- (6)(a) The treasurer for a candidate or a political committee shall maintain books of account accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five

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business days of receipt or expenditure. During the ((ten)) 1 calendar days immediately preceding the date of the election the 2 books of account shall be kept current within one business day. As 3 specified in the political committee's statement of organization 4 filed under RCW 42.17A.205, the books of account must be open for 5 6 public inspection by appointment at a place agreed upon by both the treasurer and the requestor, for inspections between 9:00 a.m. and 7 5:00 p.m. on any day from the ((tenth)) 10th calendar day immediately 8 before the election through the day immediately before the election, 9 other than Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. It is a violation of 10 11 this chapter for a candidate or political committee to refuse to 12 allow and keep an appointment for an inspection to be conducted during these authorized times and days. The appointment must be 13 allowed at an authorized time and day for such inspections that is 14 within ((forty-eight)) 48 hours of the time and day that is requested 15 16 for the inspection. The treasurer may provide digital access or 17 copies of the books of account in lieu of scheduling an appointment at a designated place for inspection. If the treasurer and requestor 18 19 are unable to agree on a location and the treasurer has not provided digital access to the books of account, the default location for an 20 21 appointment shall be a place of public accommodation selected by the treasurer within a reasonable distance from the treasurer's office. 22

(b) At the time of making the appointment, a person wishing to inspect the books of account must provide the treasurer the name and telephone number of the person wishing to inspect the books of account. The person inspecting the books of account must show photo identification before the inspection begins.

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- (c) A treasurer may refuse to show the books of account to any person who does not make an appointment or provide the required identification. The commission may issue limited rules to modify the requirements set forth in this section in consideration of other technology and best practices.
- (7) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section shall be readily available for public inspection by appointment, pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.
- (8) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of account, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign or political committee for not less than five calendar years following the year during which the transaction occurred or for any longer period as otherwise required by law.

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- 1 (9) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this 2 section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the 3 treasurer.
 - (10) Where there is not a pending complaint concerning a report, it is not evidence of a violation of this section to submit an amended report within ((twenty-one)) 21 days of filing an initial report if:
 - (a) The report is accurately amended;

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- 9 (b) The amended report is filed more than ((thirty)) 30 days 10 before an election;
 - (c) The total aggregate dollar amount of the adjustment for the amended report is within three times the contribution limit per election or ((two hundred dollars)) \$200, whichever is greater; and
 - (d) The committee reported all information that was available to it at the time of filing, or made a good faith effort to do so, or if a refund of a contribution or expenditure is being reported.
 - (11) (a) When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, the campaign fund is closed, the campaign is concluded in all respects, and the political committee has ceased to function and intends to dissolve, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon submitting a final report, the political committee so intending to dissolve must file notice of intent to dissolve with the commission and the commission must post the notice on its website.
- 24 (b) Any political committee may dissolve ((sixty)) 60 days after 25 it files its notice to dissolve, only if:
 - (i) The political committee does not make any expenditures other than those related to the dissolution process or engage in any political activity or any other activities that generate additional reporting requirements under this chapter after filing such notice;
- 30 (ii) No complaint or court action under this chapter is pending 31 against the political committee; and
- 32 (iii) All penalties assessed by the commission or court order 33 have been paid by the political committee.
 - (c) The political committee must continue to report regularly as required under this chapter until all the conditions under (b) of this subsection are resolved.
 - (d) Upon dissolution, the commission must issue an acknowledgment of dissolution, the duties of the treasurer shall cease, and there shall be no further obligations under this chapter. Dissolution does not absolve the candidate or board of the committee from

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- responsibility for any future obligations resulting from the finding after dissolution of a violation committed prior to dissolution.
- 3 (12) The commission must adopt rules for the dissolution of 4 incidental committees.
- 5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 42.17A.255 and 2020 c 152 s 5 are each amended to 6 read as follows:

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- (1) For the purposes of this section the term "independent expenditure" means any expenditure that is made in support of or in opposition to any candidate or ballot proposition and is not otherwise required to be reported pursuant to RCW 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235, and 42.17A.240. "Independent expenditure" does not include: An internal political communication primarily limited to the contributors to a political party organization or political action committee, or the officers, management staff, and stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or the members of a labor organization or other membership organization; or the rendering of personal services of the sort commonly performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer services," for the purposes of this section, means services or labor for which the individual is not compensated by any person.
- (2) Within five days after the date of making an independent expenditure that by itself or when added to all other such independent expenditures made during the same election campaign by the same person equals ((one hundred dollars)) \$100 or more, or within five days after the date of making an independent expenditure for which no reasonable estimate of monetary value is practicable, whichever occurs first, the person who made the independent expenditure shall file with the commission an initial report of all independent expenditures made during the campaign prior to and including such date.
- (3) (a) At the following intervals each person who is required to file an initial report pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall file with the commission a further report of the independent expenditures made since the date of the last report:
- ((\(\frac{(a)}{(a)}\)) (i) On the ((\text{twenty-first day and the seventh})) 34th day,

 the 20th day, and the sixth day preceding the date ((\(\frac{on which}{(on which})\)) of

 the general election ((\(\frac{is held}{(and})\)); ((\(\frac{and}{(and})\)))

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1 (b)) (ii) On the 20th day and the sixth day immediately preceding the date of the primary or special election;

- $\underline{\text{(iii)}}$ On the ((tenth)) $\underline{10th}$ day of the first month after the election; and
- $((\frac{(c)}{(c)}))$ (iv) On the $(\frac{(tenth)}{(tenth)})$ 10th day of each month in which no other reports are required to be filed pursuant to this section. $(\frac{(However, the)}{(tenth)})$
- (b) (i) The further reports required by this subsection (3) shall only be filed if the reporting person has made an independent expenditure since the date of the last previous report filed.
- ((The report filed pursuant to (a) of this subsection (3))) (ii)

 If no further reports are required to be filed, the last report required to be filed shall be the final report, and upon submitting such final report the duties of the reporting person shall cease, and there shall be no obligation to make any further reports.
- 16 (4) All reports filed pursuant to this section shall be certified 17 as correct by the reporting person.
 - (5) Each report required by subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall disclose for the period beginning at the end of the period for the last previous report filed or, in the case of an initial report, beginning at the time of the first independent expenditure, and ending not more than ((one)) two business days before the date the report is due:
 - (a) The name, address, and electronic contact information of the person filing the report;
 - (b) The name and address of each person to whom an independent expenditure was made in the aggregate amount of more than ((fifty dollars)) \$50, and the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure. If no reasonable estimate of the monetary value of a particular independent expenditure is practicable, it is sufficient to report instead a precise description of services, property, or rights furnished through the expenditure and where appropriate to attach a copy of the item produced or distributed by the expenditure;
 - (c) The total sum of all independent expenditures made during the campaign to date;
- 36 (d) A statement from the person making an independent expenditure 37 that:
- 38 (i) The expenditure is not financed in any part by a foreign 39 national; and

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- 1 (ii) Foreign nationals are not involved in making decisions 2 regarding the expenditure in any way; and
- 3 (e) Such other information as shall be required by the commission 4 by rule in conformance with the policies and purposes of this 5 chapter.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 42.17A.260 and 2020 c 152 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The sponsor of political advertising shall file a special report to the commission within ((twenty-four)) 24 hours of, or on the first working day after, the date the political advertising is first published, mailed, or otherwise presented to the public, if the political advertising:
- 13 (a) Is published, mailed, or otherwise presented to the public 14 within ((twenty-one)) 21 days of an election; and
 - (b) Either:

- (i) Qualifies as an independent expenditure with a fair market value or actual cost of ((one thousand dollars)) \$1,000 or more, for political advertising supporting or opposing a candidate; or
 - (ii) Has a fair market value or actual cost of ((one thousand dollars)) \$1,000 or more, for political advertising supporting or opposing a ballot proposition, and is not otherwise required to be reported pursuant to RCW 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235, or 42.17A.240, supporting or opposing the same ballot proposition.
 - (2) If a sponsor is required to file a special report under this section, the sponsor shall also deliver to the commission within the delivery period established in subsection (1) of this section a special report for ((each)):
 - (a) Each subsequent independent expenditure of any size supporting or opposing the same candidate who was the subject of the previous independent expenditure, supporting or opposing that candidate's opponent((, or, in the case of a)); or
 - (b) Each subsequent expenditure of any size made in support of or in opposition to ((a)) the same ballot proposition that was the subject of the previous expenditure, and is not otherwise required to be reported pursuant to RCW 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235, or 42.17A.240((τ supporting or opposing the same ballot proposition that was the subject of the previous expenditure)).
 - (3) The special report must include:
 - (a) The name and address of the person making the expenditure;

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- 1 (b) The name and address of the person to whom the expenditure 2 was made;
 - (c) A detailed description of the expenditure;
 - (d) The date the expenditure was made and the date the political advertising was first published or otherwise presented to the public;
 - (e) The amount of the expenditure;

- (f) The name of the candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure, the office being sought by the candidate, and whether the expenditure supports or opposes the candidate; or the name of the ballot proposition supported or opposed by the expenditure and whether the expenditure supports or opposes the ballot proposition;
 - (g) A statement from the sponsor that:
- (i) The political advertising is not financed in any part by a foreign national; and
- (ii) Foreign nationals are not involved in making decisions regarding the political advertising in any way; and
 - (h) Any other information the commission may require by rule.
 - (4) All persons required to report under RCW 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235, 42.17A.240, 42.17A.255, and 42.17A.305 are subject to the requirements of this section, except as otherwise provided in this section. The commission may determine that reports filed pursuant to this section also satisfy the requirements of RCW 42.17A.255.
 - (5) The sponsor of independent expenditures supporting a candidate or opposing that candidate's opponent required to report under this section shall file with each required report an affidavit or declaration of the person responsible for making the independent expenditure that the expenditure was not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the candidate, the candidate's authorized committee, or the candidate's agent, or with the encouragement or approval of the candidate, the candidate's authorized committee, or the candidate's agent.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 42.17A.265 and 2020 c 152 s 7 are each amended to 34 read as follows:
 - (1) Treasurers shall prepare and deliver to the commission a special report when a contribution or aggregate of contributions totals ((one thousand dollars or more)) more than the contribution limit to a candidate for state officer other than legislative office, as provided in RCW 42.17A.405(2), is from a single person or entity,

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and is received during ((a special reporting period)) the period from the beginning of the last full month preceding an election in which the treasurer's committee is participating, and concluding the day before that election.

- (2) A political committee shall prepare and deliver to the commission a special report when it makes a contribution or an aggregate of contributions to a single entity that totals ((one thousand dollars or more during a special reporting period)) more than the contribution limit to a candidate for state office other than legislative office, as provided in RCW 42.17A.405(2), during the same special reporting period as set forth in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) An aggregate of contributions includes only those contributions made to or received from a single entity during any one special reporting period. ((Any)) After a special report is filed as provided under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, an additional special report must be filed for any subsequent contribution of any size made to or received from the same person or entity during the special reporting period ((must also be reported)).
- (4) ((Special reporting periods, for purposes of this section, include:
- (a) The period beginning on the day after the last report required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240 to be filed before a primary and concluding on the end of the day before that primary;
 - (b) The period twenty-one days preceding a general election; and
- (c) An aggregate of contributions includes only those contributions received from a single entity during any one special reporting period or made by the contributing political committee to a single entity during any one special reporting period.
- (5) If a campaign treasurer files a special report under this section for one or more contributions received from a single entity during a special reporting period, the treasurer shall also file a special report under this section for each subsequent contribution of any size which is received from that entity during the special reporting period. If a political committee files a special report under this section for a contribution or contributions made to a single entity during a special reporting period, the political committee shall also file a special report for each subsequent contribution of any size which is made to that entity during the special reporting period.

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- (6)) Special reports required by this section shall be delivered electronically, or in written form if an electronic alternative is not available.
 - (a) The special report required of a contribution recipient under subsection (1) of this section shall be delivered to the commission within ((forty-eight)) 48 hours of the time, or on the first ((working)) business day after:
- 8 <u>(i)</u> The <u>qualifying</u> contribution ((of one thousand dollars or 9 more)) is received by the candidate or treasurer; ((the))
- (ii) The aggregate received by the candidate or treasurer first equals ((one thousand dollars or more)) the qualifying amount; or ((any))
- 13 <u>(iii)</u> Any subsequent contribution from the same source is 14 received by the candidate or treasurer.
 - (b) The special report required of a contributor under subsection (2) of this section or RCW 42.17A.625 shall be delivered to the commission, and the candidate or political committee to whom the contribution or contributions are made, within ((twenty-four)) 24 hours of the time, or on the first ((working)) business day after:
- 20 <u>(i)</u> The <u>qualifying</u> contribution is made; ((the))
- 21 <u>(ii) The</u> aggregate of contributions made first equals ((one thousand dollars or more)) the qualifying amount; or ((any))
- 23 <u>(iii)</u> Any subsequent contribution to the same person or entity is 24 made.
- 25 $((\frac{7}{1}))$ (5) The special report shall include:
 - (a) The amount of the contribution or contributions;
- 27 (b) The date or dates of receipt;

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- (c) The name and address of the donor;
- 29 (d) The name and address of the recipient;
- 30 (e) A statement that the candidate or political committee has 31 received a certification from any partnership, association, 32 corporation, organization, or other combination of persons making a 33 contribution reportable under this section that:
- 34 (i) The contribution is not financed in any part by a foreign 35 national; and
- 36 (ii) Foreign nationals are not involved in making decisions 37 regarding the contribution in any way; and
 - (f) Any other information the commission may by rule require.
- $((\frac{(8)}{(8)}))$ (6) Contributions reported under this section shall also be reported as required by other provisions of this chapter.

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- 1 (((+9))) (7) The commission shall prepare daily a summary of the 2 special reports made under this section and RCW 42.17A.625.
 - $((\frac{10}{10}))$ (8) Contributions governed by this section include, but are not limited to, contributions made or received indirectly through a third party or entity whether the contributions are or are not reported to the commission as earmarked contributions under RCW 42.17A.270.
- 8 **Sec. 7.** RCW 42.17A.345 and 2019 c 428 s 26 are each amended to 9 read as follows:
 - (1) Each commercial advertiser who has accepted or provided political advertising or electioneering communications during the election campaign shall maintain current books of account and related materials as provided by rule that shall be open for public inspection during normal business hours during the campaign and for a period of no less than five years after the date of the applicable election. The documents and books of account shall specify:
 - (a) The names and addresses of persons from whom it accepted political advertising or electioneering communications;
 - (b) The exact nature and extent of the services rendered; and
 - (c) The total cost and the manner of payment for the services.
 - (2) At the request of the commission, each commercial advertiser required to comply with subsection (1) of this section shall provide to the commission copies of the information that must be maintained and be open for public inspection pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
 - (3) Any person who purchases political advertising or electioneering communications from a commercial advertiser must disclose upon request from the commercial advertiser:
- 29 <u>(a) That the purchase includes political advertising or</u> 30 <u>electioneering communications;</u>
- 31 (b) The name of the sponsor, if different than the person making 32 the purchase; and
- 33 (c) Any other information the commercial advertiser is required to maintain, as provided by this section or rule.
- 35 (4) Any failure to provide the required information in subsection 36 (3) of this section upon request is a violation under this chapter,
- 37 <u>but such failure shall not relieve a commercial advertiser of any of</u>

38 <u>the requirements under this section.</u>

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Sec. 8. RCW 42.17A.785 and 2018 c 304 s 18 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

- (1) The public disclosure transparency account is created in the ((state treasury)) custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from penalties collected pursuant to enforcement actions or settlements under this chapter, including any fees or costs, must be deposited into the account. ((Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys in the account may be used only for the implementation of chapter 304, Laws of 2018 and duties under this chapter, and may not be used to supplant general fund appropriations to the commission.)
- (2) Moneys in the account may be used only for the development and implementation of projects designated by the commission for the purpose of improving the usability, transparency, and accessibility of systems and information regarding campaign financing, lobbying activities, and the financial affairs of public officials and candidates, consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The commission shall approve and update the list of designated projects and include a description, the purpose, and projected cost of each project as part of the commission's regular review of its technology and related business projects strategic priorities plan.
- (3) Moneys in the account may not be used for ongoing operating or enforcement expenses and are not intended to be and shall not be used to supplant general fund appropriations to the commission.
- 25 <u>(4) Only the commission may authorize expenditures from the</u> 26 <u>account. The account is not subject to appropriation.</u>

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