

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

## **Senate Bill 508**

BY SENATORS AZINGER, TRUMP, AND WELD

[Introduced January 27, 2023; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §6B-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 grass roots lobbying campaigns; modifying reporting thresholds for grass roots lobbying  
3 campaigns; and clarifying the disclosure of contributions made for the purpose of  
4 furthering grass roots lobbying campaigns.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 3. LOBBYISTS.**

**§6B-3-5. Grass roots lobbying campaigns.**

1 (1) Any person who has made expenditures, not required to be reported under other  
2 sections of this chapter, exceeding ~~\$500~~ \$5,000 in the aggregate within any three-month period  
3 or exceeding ~~\$200~~ \$1,000 in the aggregate within any one-month period in presenting a program  
4 addressed to the public, a substantial portion of which is intended, designed, or calculated  
5 primarily to influence legislation, shall be required to register and report, as provided in subsection  
6 (2) of this section, as a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign.

7 (2) Within 30 days after becoming a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign, the  
8 sponsor shall register by filing with the Ethics Commission a registration statement, in such detail  
9 as the commission shall prescribe, showing:

10 (a) The sponsor's name, address and business or occupation, and, if the sponsor is not  
11 an individual, the names, addresses, and titles of the controlling persons responsible for  
12 managing the sponsor's affairs;

13 (b) The names, addresses and business or occupation of all persons organizing and  
14 managing the campaign, or hired to assist the campaign, including any public relations or  
15 advertising firms participating in the campaign, and the terms of compensation for all such  
16 persons;

17 (c) The names and addresses of each person contributing ~~\$25~~ \$1,000 or more ~~to~~ made  
18 for the purpose of furthering the campaign and the aggregate amount contributed;

19           (d) The purpose of the campaign, including the specific legislation, rules, rates, standards  
20 or proposals that are the subject matter of the campaign;

21           (e) The totals of all expenditures made or incurred to date on behalf of the campaign,  
22 which totals shall be segregated according to financial category, including, but not limited to, the  
23 following: Advertising, segregated by media, and, in the case of large expenditures (as provided  
24 by legislative rule of the commission), by outlet; contributions; entertainment, including meals and  
25 beverages; office expenses, including rent and the salaries and wages paid for staff and  
26 secretarial assistance, or the proportionate amount thereof paid or incurred for lobbying campaign  
27 activities; consultants; and printing and mailing expenses.

28           (3) Every sponsor who has registered under this section shall file reports with the  
29 commission, which reports shall be filed for the same time periods required for the filing of  
30 lobbyists' reports under the provisions of §6B-3-4 of this code.

31           (4) When the campaign has been terminated, the sponsor shall file a notice of termination  
32 with the final monthly report, which notice shall state the totals of all contributions and  
33 expenditures made on behalf of the campaign, in the same manner as provided for in the  
34 registration statement.