

SUPPORT SB217

Short Title: Campaign finance; reporting of certain contributions received immediately prior to session

Patron(s): Senator David R. Suetterlein

Reasons to Support SB217:

- SB217 advances campaign contribution disclosure law in Virginia.
- SB217 requires the disclosure of all campaign contributions over \$1,000 within 24 hours during the period of January 1 through the first day of the General Assembly Session.

Overview:

Current Virginia election law prohibits campaign contributions to candidates for state elected office during the Virginia General Assembly session. Campaign contributions received through December 31 of the year prior to the start of session must be disclosed by January 15. Additionally, large contributions of \$10,000 or more are required to be reported within 3 days of receipt.

However, under current law, contributions under \$10,000 received in the brief period between January 1 and the start of session, a time in which bills are being drafted and introduced, are not reported until mid-April.

By banning all contributions when in session, the apparent intention of the General Assembly was to avoid the appearance of conflicting interests related to campaign donations. SB217 does not expand the ban on contributions during session. The bill instead advances public disclosure by requiring the reporting of contributions of \$1,000 or more, made in early January before the session begins, within 24 hours of receipt.

Virginia Conservation Network

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