WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Senate Bill 508

BY SENATORS AZINGER, TRUMP, AND WELD

[Passed March 10, 2023; in effect 90 days from passage (June 8, 2023)]
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[Passed March 10, 2023; in effect 90 days from passage (June 8, 2023)]
AN ACT to amend and reenact §6B-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
grass roots lobbying campaigns; modifying reporting thresholds for grass roots lobbying
campaigns; and clarifying the disclosure of contributions made for the purpose of
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) Any person who has made expenditures, not required to be reported under other
sections of this chapter, exceeding $5,000 in the aggregate within any three-month period or
exceeding $1,000 in the aggregate within any one-month period in presenting a program
addressed to the public, a substantial portion of which is intended, designed, or calculated
primarily to influence legislation, shall be required to register and report, as provided in subsection
(2) of this section, as a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign.

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

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

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

(c) The names and addresses of each person contributing $1,000 or more made for the
purpose of furthering the campaign and the aggregate amount contributed;
(d) The purpose of the campaign, including the specific legislation, rules, rates, standards or proposals that are the subject matter of the campaign;

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

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

(4) When the campaign has been terminated, the sponsor shall file a notice of termination with the final monthly report, which notice shall state the totals of all contributions and expenditures made on behalf of the campaign, in the same manner as provided for in the registration statement.
The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 29th Day of March, 2023.

Governor