

**2013 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1449**

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1449  
February 14, 2013  
19002

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Carmen Hart*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to campaign contribution and expenditure reporting requirements.

### Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Jim Kasper** opened the hearing on HB 1449.

**Rep. Boschee** appeared in support and was a sponsor of this bill. This legislation would add to the transparency of campaign expenses to our citizens. I was surprised how often I was asked about campaign finances while campaigning this last fall. It is apparent that our citizens are concerned about who we as candidates are receiving funds from and how we are spending them. Lines 13-14 would put our legislative candidate reporting in line with statewide candidates' reporting which would be consistent with HB 1436. The addition of Lines 17-20 is the major change in this statute. It would require that candidates report expenditures from our campaign accounts in excess of \$200. The \$200 threshold was set to be in alignment with our current contribution reports. When asked by voters about campaign finance, they were often surprised to realize that there was no listing of how I used my funds as a candidate. Some of them even referred to rumors that they heard of elected officials using their campaign funds to pay their mortgage, car payments, or other bills. I think it is important that citizens are interested in this information and as we continue to have the cost of our campaigns increase, so do the increasing size of our donations and so people start to question how we are using those funds as well. This bill would put at ease our constituents and allow them to see that we as candidates are using our funds appropriately and demystify how we utilize our funds.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** Do you have any data to support phone calls that were made to the Secretary of State's office? You say you received the most feedback door to door. How critical of a problem was it?

**Rep. Boschee** I wouldn't say it was a critical problem, but it was definitely a concern that constituents had. In looking at what other states do it is generally a common and best practice of reporting expenditures.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** Did you say that 27 states do require reporting or you did not do the research to say that 27 out of 50?

**Rep. Boschee** The latter. I did not do the research.

**Rep. Vernon Laning** In my particular district none of us maintain a campaign fund. We turn every donation we get over to our district treasurer who then pays for everything. How would I respond to this legislation?

**Rep. Boschee** I think under that situation then it would be put up with the reporting procedures of your district party as required of who would be responsible for that. We find there are different ways that different campaign accounts are handled. At this point I don't think there is anything mandated that you have to have an individual campaign account versus your district funds. Talking to some of my colleagues in the House, their campaign account was a total of \$250 whereas mine raised nearly \$35,000.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Does it look kind of like a finance report?

**Rep. Boschee** It would very similar to our contribution form where we are listing what those expenditures are over \$200. As you can see here, it would include the name of the expense or who it went whether it is an organization or an individual, mailing address, date of the most recent expense, and purpose.

There was no opposition.

The hearing closed.

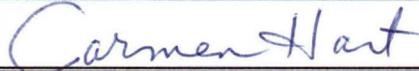
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1449  
February 21, 2013  
19346 (6:23-End)

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to campaign contribution and expenditure reporting requirements.

### Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Jim Kasper** This bill is similar to 1436. 1436 was on contributions and this one, 1449, is reporting of contributions and expenditures. This is a little more far reaching than 1436. It adds the legislative candidates to the additional reporting requirements including Section C, the aggregate total of all expenditures in excess of \$200 made to any person, the name of the person, the mailing address of the person, the date of the most recent expense and the purpose for which the aggregated expenditure total was disbursed. I find this part of the bill very troubling because what that is actually doing is disclosing your campaign plan.

**Rep. Vernon Laning** This bothers me personally. As district chairman, I did a lot of arranging and paying for signs and trinkets that we handed out in the campaign, and then I had the district reimburse me. I am afraid somebody looking at that list would see a lot of checks written to Vernon Laning and might think this guy is on the take here.

**Rep. Scott Louser** As I read this, we have multiple print shops and vendors in our market that would like to have our business during campaigns. You can really only choose one. This would then disclose to some of your friends what you choose.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** Right. If you chose print shop A over B, then it is a tough decision sometimes.

**Vice Chair Randy Boehning** made a motion for a Do not pass.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **DO NOT PASS, 10-3, 1 ABSENT**. **Rep. Ben Koppelman** is the carrier.

Date: 2-21-13  
 Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1449**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Boehning Seconded By Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman		X
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Gail Mooney		X
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser		X
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 10 No 3

Absent 1

Floor Assignment B. Koppelman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1449: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HB 1449 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.