

**SB 216 — Campaign Financing/Local Government Expenditures**

by Senators Justice, Gaetz, Fasano, Baker, and Richter

The bill prohibits a local government or person acting on its behalf from spending or authorizing, and prohibits a person or group from accepting, public funds for a political advertisement or electioneering communication that involves an issue, referendum, or amendment that the public will vote on at an election. The bill exempts electioneering communications that are limited to factual information. The bill further clarifies that a local government elected official is not prohibited from expressing an opinion on any issue at any time as long as it does not violate the aforementioned prohibition.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2009.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 94-22*

**SB 252 — Local Government/Code of Ethics**

by Senators Constantine and Rich

The bill applies the conduct, financial disclosure, gift, and honoraria provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, ch. 112, part III, F.S., to the employees, directors, and officers of private entities that perform the functions of a political subdivision's chief administrative officer or employee. The bill creates a new penalty provision applicable to persons who are subject to the Code of Ethics but are not considered public officers or employees. The bill also makes the Governor the disciplinary official for these persons.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2009.

*Vote: Senate 37-0; House 117-0*

**HJR 81 — Public Campaign Financing**

by Rep. Hays and others (SB 566 by Senators Haridopolos, Oelrich, Gaetz, and Dean)

This joint resolution proposes to repeal the constitutional requirement that the Legislature maintain a public campaign financing program for statewide candidate races at or above the funding levels provided for by law on January 1, 1998 (s. 7, Art. VI, State Constitution).

The joint resolution does not, however, repeal the public financing program for statewide elections; the current statutory program, the Florida Election Campaign Financing Act (ss. 106.30-106.36, F.S.), will continue in effect for the 2010 election cycle and thereafter, unless amended by the Legislature (or some subsequent constitutional amendment).

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the question at the 2010 general election, these provisions take effect January 4, 2011.

*Vote: Senate 29-11; House 80-34*

### **HB 7015 — Public Records Exemption/Open Government Sunset Review/Campaign Finance Reports**

by Governmental Affairs Policy Committee and Rep. Eisnaugle (CS/SB 1348 Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Ethics and Elections Committee)

The bill saves from repeal the public records exemptions for electronically filing campaign finance reports. The bill keeps user identifications and passwords held by the Department of State for the purpose of filing campaign finance reports in accordance with s. 106.0705, F.S., confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I, State Constitution. The bill also keeps information entered into the electronic filing system for the purpose of generating a report pursuant to s. 106.0705, F.S., exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I, State Constitution until the report is filed with the Division of Elections.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2009.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 114-0*