SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2255	**Hearing Date:**	6/30/26
Author:	Pellerin		
Version:	6/23/26		
Urgency:	No	**Fiscal:**	Yes
Consultant:	Carrie Cornwell		

Subject: Political Reform Act of 1974: candidate controlled committees: campaign statements.

DIGEST

This bill requires a candidate controlled campaign committee to report additional information, if the candidate is not on the ballot at the next election or for re-election and the committee makes expenditures to a single person of $20,000 or more.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

1) Creates the Political Reform Act (PRA), which sets campaign finance and disclosure laws for state and local campaigns, candidates, officeholders, and ballot measures, and establishes the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA.

2) Defines a committee under the PRA as a person, or combination of persons, who receives contributions of more than $2,000 in a calendar year, makes independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more in a calendar year, or makes contributions totaling $10,000 or more in a calendar year to or at the behest of candidates or committees.

3) Requires candidates for elective office, committees formed to support or oppose candidates for public office or ballot measures, slate mailer organizations, and other specified entities, to file periodic and activity-based campaign reports disclosing contributions, expenditures, and other related matters.

4) Requires candidate controlled committees to report the name and address of each person who receives an expenditure of $100 or more from the committee and to specify the date of the expenditure, disclose the amount, and provide a brief description of the consideration for which it was made.

This bill requires a candidate controlled committee to include additional information in its campaign report if the candidate is not on the ballot at the next election, the committee is not for re-election to the candidate’s current office, and the committee makes expenditures to a single person of $20,000 or more, excluding payments for a credit card bill or a campaign contribution. This additional information must include:

- The full name and street address of the person to whom the expenditures were made.
- The amount of each expenditure.
- A description of any consideration for which the committee made each expenditure, including the specific political, legislative, or governmental purpose the payment satisfies.
- If applicable, the relationship to the candidate, campaign staff, or officeholder staff of the person or subvendor. A relationship must be reported if the person or reportable subvendor is:

  - Immediate family of the candidate.
  - A member of the candidate's campaign or officeholder staff.
  - An immediate family member of the candidate's campaign or officeholder staff.

<u>COMMENTS</u>

1) <u>Author's Statement.</u> While candidates may begin fundraising well in advance of an election to ensure they have sufficient resources to communicate with voters, most campaign spending by candidates usually occurs during the weeks leading up to the election. Large campaign expenditures made outside the typical campaign window warrant closer scrutiny to ensure compliance with state law. This bill requires additional detail about the purpose of large campaign expenditures made at times when a candidate is less likely to be engaged in significant campaign activity. This additional disclosure will improve transparency and ensure appropriate oversight of the state's campaign finance laws.

2) <u>Expanded Reporting.</u> While a campaign must report any payment it makes that is $100 or more, it must provide only a brief description of what the payment was for and typically would use one of 27 standardized FPPC-established expenditure codes. This bill requires expanded descriptions for payments of $20,000 or more in times when the candidate the committee supports is not actively running for office and therefore not under greater observation of an active campaign. Thus, the bill requires more detail on why the campaign made the payment. Further, the bill requires in specified instances a description of the relationship between the campaign and the recipient of the payment, which mirrors the requirements in FPPC regulations for reporting behested payments.

3) <u>Arguments in Support.</u> The FPPC, the bill's sponsor, writes in support that under this bill:

   > …a committee would be required to disclose a description of the consideration provided by a recipient of payments over the threshold amount, and, if applicable, the relationship of the recipient or reportable subvendor to the candidate or any individual with authority to approve the payments.
   >
   > We expect that the additional information disclosed will show that the vast majority of officials are following the law. By providing the public with the information necessary to confirm that fact, and, more importantly, identify any

bad actors, we believe this measure will help strengthen public trust in the integrity of the political process.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

AB 808 (Addis), Chapter 278, Statutes of 2025, among other things, updated terms used in state law to reflect the electronic filing of required campaign-related reports that will occur when the Secretary of State certifies the new online reporting system.

PRIOR ACTION

Assembly Floor:	77 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Elections Committee:	8 - 0

POSITIONS

Sponsor: California Fair Political Practices Commission

Support: California Common Cause
League of Women Voters of California

Oppose: None received

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