1	Senate Bill No. 59
2	(By Senators Barnes and Sypolt)
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4	[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the Committee on the
5	Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]
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LΟ	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$3-8-12$ of the Code of West Virginia,
L1	1931, as amended, relating to limitation of distributing,
L2	handing out or otherwise dispensing public moneys by elected
L3	officials within ninety days of elections.
L 4	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
L 5	That $$3-8-12$ of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
	ARTICLE 8. REGULATION AND CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.
	§3-8-12. Additional acts forbidden; circulation of written matter;
L9	newspaper advertising; solicitation of contributions;
20	intimidation and coercion of employees; promise of
21	employment or other benefits; limitations on
22	contributions; public contractors; penalty.
23	(a) No person may publish, issue or circulate, or cause to be

- 1 published, issued or circulated, any an anonymous letter, circular,
- 2 placard, radio or television advertisement or other publication
- 3 supporting or aiding the election or defeat of a clearly identified
- 4 candidate.
- 5 (b) No owner, publisher, editor or employee of a newspaper or
- 6 other periodical may insert either in its advertising or reading
- 7 columns, any matter, any matter in its advertising or reading
- 8 columns, paid for or to be paid for, which tends tending to
- 9 influence the voting at any an election unless:
- 10 <u>(1)</u> Directly designating it as a paid advertisement; and
- 11 (2) Stating the name of the person authorizing its
- 12 publication; and
- 13 <u>(3) Stating the name of</u> the candidate in whose behalf it is
- 14 published.
- 15 (c) No person may, in any a room or building occupied for the
- 16 discharge of official duties by any an officer or employee of the
- 17 state or a political subdivision of the state, solicit orally or by
- 18 written communication delivered within the room or building, or in
- 19 any other manner, any a contribution of money or other thing of
- 20 value for  $\frac{any}{a}$  party or political purpose from  $\frac{any}{a}$  postmaster or
- 21 any other officer or employee of the federal government or officer
- 22 or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state.
- 23 No officer, agent, clerk or employee of the federal government or
- 24 of this state or any political subdivision of the state, who may

have who has charge or control of any building, office or room,

coccupied for any an official purpose, may knowingly permit any a

person to enter any a building, office or room occupied for any an

for the purpose of soliciting or receiving any

political assessments from, or delivering or giving in order to

solicit or receive political assessments from or to deliver or

give written solicitations for, or any notice of, any political

assessments to any an officer or employee of the state or a

political subdivision of the state.

10 (d) Except as provided in section eight of this article, no 11 person or firm entering into any a contract with the state or its 12 subdivisions, or any department or agency of the state, either 13 departments or agencies for rendition of personal services or for 14 furnishing any material, supplies or equipment or selling any land 15 or building to the state or its subdivisions, or any department or 16 agency of the state, if payment for the performance of the contract 17 or payment for the material, supplies, equipment, land or building 18 is to be made, in whole or in part, from public funds may, during 19 the period of negotiation, for or performance under the contract or 20 furnishing of materials, supplies, equipment, land or buildings, 21 may, during the period of negotiations, directly or indirectly, 22 make <del>any</del> <u>a</u> contribution to <del>any</del> <u>a</u> political party, committee or 23 candidate for public office or to any a person for political 24 <del>purposes or use nor may any person or firm</del> <u>purpose or</u> solicit any

- 1 contributions for any purpose during any period if payment for the
- 2 performance of the contract or for the material, supplies,
- 3 equipment, land or buildings is made or is to be made, in whole or
- 4 part, from public funds.
- 5 (e) No person may, directly or indirectly, promise any
- 6 employment, position, work, compensation or other benefit provided
- 7 for or made possible, in whole or in part, by act of the
- 8 Legislature, to any person as consideration, favor or reward for
- 9 any political activity for the in support of or opposition to any
- 10  $\underline{a}$  candidate or  $\underline{any}$   $\underline{a}$  political party in  $\underline{any}$   $\underline{an}$  election.
- 11 (f) No person may, directly or indirectly, make any a
- 12 contribution in excess of the value of \$1,000 in connection with
- 13 any a campaign for nomination or election to or on behalf of any
- 14 statewide office, in connection with any other a campaign for
- 15 nomination or election to or on behalf of any other elective office
- 16 in the state or <del>any of</del> its subdivisions or in connection with or on
- 17 behalf of any a person engaged in furthering, advancing, supporting
- 18 or aiding the nomination or election of any a candidate for any of
- 19 the offices.
- 20 (g) No political organization, (as defined in Section
- 21 527(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) may solicit or
- 22 accept contributions until it has notified the Secretary of State
- 23 of its existence and of the purposes for which it was formed.
- 24 During the two-year election cycle, a political organization, (as

- 1 defined in Section 527(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)
- 2 may not accept contributions totaling more than \$1,000 from any one
- 3 person prior to the primary election and contributions totaling
- 4 more than \$1,000 from any one person after the primary and before
- 5 the general election.
- 6 (h) It <del>shall be</del> <u>is</u> unlawful for any person to create,
- 7 establish or organize more than one political organization (as
- 8 defined in Section 527(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)
- 9 with the intent to avoid or evade the contribution limitations
- 10 contained in subsection (g) of this section.
- 11 (I) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of this
- 12 section to the contrary, no person may, directly or indirectly,
- 13 make contributions to a state party executive committee or state
- 14 party legislative caucus committee which, in the aggregate, exceed
- 15 the value of \$1,000 in any calendar year.
- 16 (j) The limitations on contributions contained in this section
- 17 do not apply to transfers between and among a state party executive
- 18 committee or a state party's legislative caucus political committee
- 19 from national committees of the same political party. Provided,
- 20 That Transfers permitted by this subsection may not exceed \$50,000
- 21 in the aggregate in any calendar year to  $\frac{any}{a}$  state party
- 22 executive committee or state party legislative caucus political
- 23 committee *Provided*, *however*, That the moneys transferred and may
- 24 only be used for voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities

1 of the state committees.

- (k) No person may solicit any contribution, contributions,

  3 other than contributions to a campaign for or against a county or

  4 local government ballot issue, from any a nonelective salaried

  5 employee of the state government or of any of its subdivisions:

  6 Provided, That in no event shall may any person acting in a

  7 supervisory role solicit a person who is a subordinate employee for

  8 any a contribution. No person may coerce or intimidate any a

  9 nonelective salaried employee into making a contribution. No

  10 person may coerce or intimidate any a nonsalaried employee of the

  11 state government or any of its subdivisions into engaging in any a

  12 form of political activity. The provisions of this subsection may

  13 not be construed to do not prevent any an employee from making a

  14 contribution or from engaging in political activity voluntarily

  15 without coercion, intimidation or solicitation.
- (1) No person may solicit a contribution from any other <u>a</u>

  17 person without informing the other person at the time of the

  18 solicitation of the amount of any commission, remuneration or other

  19 compensation that the solicitor or any other person will receive or

  20 expect to receive as a direct result of the contribution being

  21 successfully collected. Nothing in this subsection may be

  22 construed to apply applies to solicitations of contributions made

  23 by any a person serving as an unpaid volunteer.
- 24 (m) No person may place  $\frac{1}{2}$  letter, circular, flyer,

1 advertisement, election paraphernalia, solicitation material or 2 other printed or published item tending to influence voting at any 3 an election in a roadside receptacle unless it is: (1) Approved 4 for placement into a roadside receptacle by the business or entity 5 owning the receptacle; and (2) contains a written acknowledgment of This subdivision does not apply to any printed 6 the approval. 7 material contained in a newspaper or periodical published or 8 distributed by the owner of the receptacle. The term "roadside 9 receptacle" means any a container placed by a newspaper or 10 periodical business or entity to facilitate home or personal 11 delivery of a designated newspaper or periodical to its customers. (n) No elected official or individual acting on behalf of an 12 13 elected official may personally distribute, handout or otherwise 14 dispense publicly any state or federal public moneys and 15 appropriation grants, including state grants and economic 16 development funds, to an individual, corporation, organization or 17 entity within ninety days of an election in which the elected 18 official is a candidate. 19 (n) (o) Any A person violating any provision of this section 20 is quilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be 21 fined not more than \$1,000 or confined in a regional or county jail 22 for not more than one year or, in the discretion of the court, be 23 subject to both fine and confinement jail for not more than one 24 year or both fined and confined.

- (o) (p) The provisions of subsection (k) of this section,
- 2 permitting contributions to a campaign for or against a county or
- 3 local government ballot issue, shall become are operable on and
- 4 after January 1, 2005.
- 5 (p) (q) The limitations on contributions established by
- 6 subsection (g) of this section do not apply to contributions made
- 7 for the purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot issue, including
- 8 a constitutional amendment.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit distribution, handing out or otherwise dispensing of public moneys by elected officials within ninety days of elections.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.