

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1192

SPONSOR: Committee on Ethics and Elections and Senator Posey

SUBJECT: Committees of Continuous Existence

DATE: February 13, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Fox	Rubinas	EE	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	RC	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1192 (“Committee Substitute”) requires that significant membership dues of committees of continuous existence (“CCEs”) be periodically reported on campaign finance reports in the same manner as regular contributions. The full name, address, and, in certain cases, occupation of each person who has made one or more contributions that represent the payment of membership dues must be reported. Membership dues of less than \$50 per payment and not exceeding \$250 per year, pursuant to a fixed schedule on file with the Division of Elections, continue to be reported in a lump sum as “membership dues.”

This bill substantially amends section 106.04 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Florida law requires political committees and CCEs to register with the Division of Elections and file periodic financial reports.¹ The statement of organization for these groups must include the following information:

- Name and address of the committee;
- Names, addresses, and relationship of affiliated organizations;
- Area, scope, and jurisdiction of the committee;
- Name, address, and position of the custodian of accounts and other principal officers; and
- Name and address of candidates being supported or issues being opposed or supported by the committee.

¹ See Sections 106.03, 106.04, and 106.07, F.S.

Further, CCEs must file an annual report outlining essentially the same information required in the committee's initial registration.

Committees of continuous existence must also file periodic financial reports. These periodic reports detail each group's contribution and expenditure activities. Under current law, CCEs are not required to provide a detailed accounting of contributions in the form of dues by individual donors nor the amount of each such due; only the aggregate amount of dues must be listed together with the total number of members paying such dues.²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The Committee Substitute requires CCEs to periodically report membership dues in the same manner as regular contributions. The full name, address, and occupation³ of each person who has made one or more contributions that represent the payment of membership dues must be reported *individually*. However, regular payments of membership dues of less than \$50 per payment and not exceeding \$250 per year, pursuant to a fixed schedule on file with the Division of Elections, continue to be reported in a lump sum as "membership dues."

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2002.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill may impose additional administrative and record keeping burdens on certain CCEs, by mandating reporting of individual membership dues instead of lump-sum

² Section 106.04(4)(c)1., F.S.

³ CCEs need not report the occupation of persons contributing \$100 or less. Section 106.04(4)(c)1., F.S.

reporting. The precise fiscal impact cannot be determined; it will depend on the number of dues paying members.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
