



OHIO REPORT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

110TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE APPROVES CAMPAIGN FINANCING BILL ON PARTY-LINE VOTE

A compromise campaign financing bill (Sub. SB 46) that sought to avoid the pitfalls that were encountered in last year's special session on campaign financing was pushed out of the Senate Wednesday by Republicans over the objections of Democrats who lined up in solid opposition to the measure.

The 17-15 party-line vote came as a surprise since there was at least tacit agreement earlier to approve the bill and get it into a conference committee where details could be worked out.

Democratic opposition centered mainly on the new reporting requirements that the bill would place on labor unions, specifically the requirement that labor unions report the names and addresses of all members if they make a political contribution.

Senator Marigene Valiquette (D-Toledo) was rebuffed in her attempt to amend the bill to provide an exemption from the reporting requirements for continuing associations, other than political parties, that are supported by dues-paying members. She contended the goal of the bill should be to limit the political activities of temporary committees that are set up to benefit specific candidates or issues.

Minority Leader Anthony Calabrese (D-Cleveland), urging support for the amendment, said the bill would place new and possibly unconstitutional restrictions on organizations that are not primarily involved in political campaigning. He described the provision as *"the last obstacle to a compromise"* on a campaign financing bill.

Senator Robert O'Shaughnessy (D-Columbus) was equally unsuccessful with a similar amendment that sought to remove references to labor unions in the definition section of the bill and thereby remove them from the reporting requirements.

The Democrats were further angered by a Republican amendment that would exempt political parties from the requirement of reporting the full names and addresses of their contributors. *"Why require full disclosure for labor and only partial disclosure for political parties?"* Senator David Headley (D-Barberton) demanded.

Party lines dissolved momentarily on an amendment offered by Senator Michael Maloney (R-Cincinnati) to delete provisions in the bill for creation of an elections commission and leave enforcement in the hands of the secretary of state. He said he had strong reservations about delegating the policing authority to a commission whose members would be drawn from lists submitted by the state central committees.

Senator Paul Matia (R-Westlake) called the elections commission *"one of the key-stones of the bill,"* but the amendment was approved by a vote of 26-6 with Senators Valiquette and Tony Hall (Dayton) joining with Senator Matia and three other Republicans in voting against it.

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SENATE APPROVES CAMPAIGN FINANCING BILL (Cont.)

In summing up the Democratic position on the bill, Senator Hall said he felt provisions should be made to limit the amount of money that an individual could contribute, prohibit political tricks and political espionage, and provide for more effective pre-election disclosures. He also cited the lack of provisions for a state income tax credit for small political contributions.

The House State Government Committee was scheduled to begin hearings Wednesday night on its version of a campaign financing bill (HB 1082) that was reported out of subcommittee last week. Rep. Patrick Sweeney (D-Cleveland), sponsor of the bill, said he will ask that it be held up and put back into subcommittee when the House receives the Senate bill. He said that unless a compromise is reached on the question of political activities by labor unions the entire campaign financing issue will again be stalemated.

REPUBLICANS OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL

A Republican alternative to Governor John J. Gilligan's emergency energy conservation proposals was unveiled Wednesday by Senate President Pro Tem Theodore Gray.

Senator Gray said the bill (SB 482) was drafted cooperatively by Republican and Senate and House leaders as a result of what he described as "*doubts raised by Democrats and Republicans alike*" regarding the governor's bill (HB 1134 and SB 474). He predicted the bill could be enacted before the Legislature's April 5 recess.

The bill would create a seven-member energy board consisting of the governor as chairman and three members each from the House and Senate--two from the majority party and one from the minority party in each chamber.

Senator Gray said the membership of the board is "*designed to bridge the gap between legislative and executive constitutional authority.*" The governor's bill would create a separate energy board with broad emergency energy action powers.

The Republican bill would give the executive-legislative energy board equally broad powers to adopt rules and regulations that would have the effect of law for 90 days but only if the governor declared an emergency. At the end of 90 days the rules and regulations would expire unless made part of permanent law by the Legislature.

These powers would include controlling the use, sale or distribution of fuel and electricity by such means as rationing, allocations, prohibitions on shipments and price fixing.

Senator Gray said that because of the uncertainty of Congressional action, many legislators are apprehensive about delegating powers to a separate agency. He said there is also concern about creating "*new layers of bureaucracy.*"

The Republican bill would delegate administrative power to an executive secretary who would be responsible for hiring staff and providing for the transfer of state employees from other departments. It would require the State Controlling Board to release sufficient funds to enable the board to carry out its functions.

On the House side, 35 legislators banded together to introduce an "*energy*" bill (HB 1188) that would provide a supplemental appropriation of \$20 million during the next fiscal year to aid mass transportation development in the state. Rep. Patrick Sweeney (D-Cleveland), main sponsor of the measure, explained that \$15 million of the supplemental appropriation would be used as a capital grant program