

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5273**

A bill to require certain candidates for state elective office to file financial disclosure reports; to create a financial disclosure form; to prescribe penalties and civil sanctions; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) This act may be cited as the "candidate for office
2 financial disclosure act".

3 (2) The financial disclosures required by this act represent a
4 minimum expectation of transparency, and individuals subject to
5 this act are encouraged to make financial disclosures in addition
6 to those required by this act.

7 Sec. 3. As used in this act:



1 (a) "Candidate" means that term as defined in section 3 of the
2 Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.203.

3 (b) "Candidate for office" means a candidate for any of the
4 following offices who is subject to the Michigan campaign finance
5 act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 to 169.282, and whose candidate
6 committee received or expended more than \$1,000.00 during the
7 election cycle:

8 (i) Governor.

9 (ii) Lieutenant governor.

10 (iii) Secretary of state.

11 (iv) Attorney general.

12 (v) State representative.

13 (vi) State senator.

14 (c) "Department" means the department of state.

15 (d) "Earned income" means salaries, wages, tips, bonuses,
16 commissions, or other compensation or earnings from employment
17 earned during the reporting period.

18 (e) "Form" means the financial disclosure form created by the
19 department in accordance with section 11.

20 (f) "Gift" means that term as defined in section 7 of the
21 Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.207.

22 (g) "Honorarium" means that term as defined in section 7 of
23 the Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.207.

24 (h) "Liabilities" means what a person owes to another person,
25 including, but not limited to, mortgages or other debts. For
26 purposes of this act, a debt does not include a revolving debt, an
27 unsecured debt that is from a financial institution or the federal
28 government, or a debt owed by a business entity.

29 (i) "Report" means the financial disclosure report required



1 under section 10 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.

2 (j) "Reporting period" means the preceding calendar year.

3 (k) "Spouse" means an individual who is lawfully married to a
4 candidate for office as described under 26 CFR 30.7701-18.

5 (l) "Unearned income" means income that is not earned from
6 employment, including, but not limited to, financial prize,
7 unemployment benefits, annuities, stock dividends, deferred
8 compensation, pension, profit sharing, or retirement income.
9 Unearned income does not include inheritance money or a familial
10 gift.

11 Sec. 5. (1) A candidate for office shall file an annual
12 financial disclosure report with the department.

13 (2) The report required under this section must first be filed
14 by May 15, 2024, and by May 15 of each year thereafter, or if the
15 candidate for office files a statement of organization for that
16 candidate's candidate committee after May 15 in order to be
17 nominated by a political party at the political party's nominating
18 convention, the report required to be filed under this subsection
19 must be filed no later than 15 days after that candidate files the
20 statement of organization for that candidate's candidate committee.

21 (3) If a candidate for office who is required to file a report
22 under this act receives notice from the secretary of state under
23 section 13(1)(g), the candidate for office shall, within 9 business
24 days after receiving the notice, file corrections to the errors or
25 omissions or file the report, as applicable.

26 Sec. 7. (1) A report required under section 5 must include a
27 complete statement of all of the following:

28 (a) The full name, mailing address, telephone number, and
29 email address of the candidate for office.



1 (b) The name and address of the employer of the candidate for
2 office and the positions held during the reporting period, if the
3 candidate for office receives \$1,000.00 or more in annual income
4 from each position.

5 (c) The name of the spouse of the candidate for office, the
6 occupation of the spouse of the candidate for office, and the name
7 of the employer of the candidate for office's spouse.

8 (d) Whether the public officer's spouse was registered as a
9 lobbyist or lobbyist agent under 1978 PA 472, MCL 4.411 to 4.431,
10 during the reporting period.

11 (e) A list of all positions currently held as an officer,
12 director, trustee, partner, proprietor, representative, employee,
13 or consultant of any organization, corporation, firm, partnership,
14 or other business enterprise, nonprofit organization, labor
15 organization, or educational or other institution other than this
16 state. If this subdivision applies, the candidate for office shall
17 include the name of the organization. For purposes of this
18 subdivision, positions held in any religious, social, fraternal, or
19 political entity, or positions that are solely of an honorary
20 nature, are excluded.

21 (f) The source of earned income received during the reporting
22 period by the candidate for office. For purposes of this
23 subdivision, the candidate for office must report each source of
24 income received during the reporting period that is \$1,000.00 or
25 more.

26 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a list
27 of each asset, excluding a business asset, held for investment or
28 production of income with a fair market value of \$1,000.00 or more
29 during the reporting period and any sources of unearned income that



1 exceed \$200.00 during the reporting period. The fair market value
2 for the purpose of listing each asset, excluding a business asset,
3 held for investment or production of income under this subdivision
4 must be adjusted for inflation every 4 years using the Detroit
5 Consumer Price Index, and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000.00.

6 (h) A list of all liabilities that exceed \$10,000.00 owed by
7 the candidate for office to a creditor at any time during the
8 reporting period.

9 (i) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a list
10 of any stocks, bonds, or other forms of securities held by the
11 candidate for office or held jointly with the spouse of the
12 candidate for office during the reporting period, if the security
13 has a total aggregate fair market value of \$1,000.00 or more. The
14 fair market value for the purpose of listing stocks, bonds, or
15 other forms of securities under this subdivision must be adjusted
16 for inflation every 4 years using the Detroit Consumer Price Index,
17 and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000.00. For purposes of this act,
18 a candidate for office is not required to disclose a stock in a
19 widely held investment fund, including, but not limited to, a
20 mutual fund, regulated investment company, pension or deferred
21 compensation plan, or other investment fund, if both of the
22 following apply:

23 (i) Either the fund is publicly traded or the assets of the
24 fund are widely diversified.

25 (ii) The candidate for office or the candidate for office's
26 spouse does not exercise control over or have the ability to
27 exercise control over the financial interests held by the fund.

28 (j) A list of any real property in which the candidate for
29 office holds an ownership or other financial interest. For purposes



1 of this subdivision, the candidate for office is required to
2 include a real property in the report only if that real property
3 has a fair market value of \$1,000.00 or more during the reporting
4 period. A candidate for office filing a report may exclude the
5 street number of a parcel of real property under this subdivision.

6 (k) The date, identity of parties to, and general terms of any
7 agreements or arrangements with respect to future employment, a
8 leave of absence while a candidate for office, continuation or
9 deferral of payments by a former or current employer other than
10 this state, or continuing participation in an employee welfare or
11 benefit plan maintained by a former employer.

12 (2) A candidate for office is not required to disclose the
13 value of any real property or property disclosed under subsection
14 (1).

15 (3) A report required under section 5 must include the
16 following certification: "I certify that the statements I have made
17 on this financial disclosure form are true, complete, and correct
18 to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have not moved
19 assets during the reporting period for the purpose of avoiding
20 disclosure under the candidate for office financial disclosure
21 act."

22 Sec. 9. A candidate for office filing a report under section 5
23 may omit any of the following:

24 (a) Information an individual is required to report under the
25 Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 to 169.282.

26 (b) An item otherwise required to be reported under section
27 7(1)(i) or (j) if all of the following apply:

28 (i) The item represents the exclusive financial interest and
29 responsibility of the spouse of the candidate for office about



1 which the candidate for office does not have control.

2 (ii) The item is not in any way derived from the income,
3 assets, or activities of the candidate for office.

4 (iii) The candidate for office does not derive, or expect to
5 derive, financial benefit from the item.

6 (c) An item that concerns a spouse who is living separate and
7 apart from the candidate for office with the intention of
8 terminating the marriage or maintaining a legal separation.

9 (d) An item that concerns income of the candidate for office
10 arising from dissolution of the candidate for office's marriage or
11 a permanent legal separation from the spouse of the candidate for
12 office.

13 Sec. 11. (1) Within 30 days after the effective date of this
14 act, the department shall create a standard financial disclosure
15 form that incorporates the requirements of section 7 for use by a
16 candidate for office to file the financial disclosure report
17 required under this act.

18 (2) The department shall, no later than March 15, 2024, make
19 the form created under this section easily accessible on its
20 website.

21 Sec. 13. (1) The secretary of state shall do all of the
22 following:

23 (a) Make available through the secretary of state's offices
24 appropriate forms, instructions, and manuals required by this act.

25 (b) Create and operate an electronic, internet-accessible
26 system to receive all statements and reports required by this act
27 to be filed with the secretary of state.

28 (c) Create all forms, instructions, and manuals required under
29 this act.



1 (d) Issue declaratory rulings to implement this act under the
2 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
3 24.328.

4 (e) On receiving a written request and the required filing,
5 waive payment of a late filing fee if the request for the waiver is
6 based on good cause and accompanied by adequate documentation. One
7 or more of the following reasons constitute good cause for a late
8 filing fee waiver:

9 (i) The incapacitating physical illness, hospitalization,
10 accident involvement, death, or incapacitation for medical reasons
11 of a candidate for office or an individual whose participation is
12 essential to the preparation of the report.

13 (ii) Other unique, unintentional factors beyond the control of
14 the candidate for office that are not the result of a negligent act
15 or nonaction so that a reasonably prudent person would excuse the
16 filing on a temporary basis. These factors include the loss or
17 unavailability of records because of a fire, flood, theft, or
18 similar reason and difficulties related to the transmission of the
19 filing to the secretary of state, such as exceptionally bad
20 weather.

21 (f) As soon as practicable, but not later than 5 business days
22 after a report required to be filed under this act is received,
23 make the report or all of the contents of the report available
24 without charge to the public on a separate webpage or its website
25 homepage.

26 (g) Within 9 business days after the deadline for filing a
27 report under this act, notify, by registered mail or email, an
28 individual of any error or omission in the individual's report or
29 that the individual failed to file the required report.



1 (2) The secretary of state shall issue a declaratory ruling
2 under this section only if the person requesting the ruling has
3 provided a reasonably complete statement of facts necessary for the
4 ruling or if the person requesting the ruling has, with the
5 permission of the secretary of state, supplied supplemental facts
6 necessary for the ruling. Within 2 business days after receiving a
7 request for a declaratory ruling, the secretary of state shall make
8 the request available in the manner provided for under subsection
9 (1) (f). An interested person may submit written comments regarding
10 the request to the secretary of state within 10 business days after
11 the date the request is made available to the public. Within 45
12 business days after receiving a declaratory ruling request, the
13 secretary of state shall make a proposed response available in the
14 manner provided for under subsection (1) (f). An interested person
15 may submit written comments regarding the proposed response to the
16 secretary of state within 5 business days after the date the
17 proposal is made available to the public. Except as otherwise
18 provided in this section, the secretary of state shall issue a
19 declaratory ruling within 60 business days after receiving a
20 request for a declaratory ruling. The secretary of state may refuse
21 to issue a declaratory ruling or an interpretive statement under
22 this act if the request is anonymous, the secretary of state
23 determines that the subject matter of the request is frivolous on
24 its face, or the request is indefinite or lacks specificity. If the
25 secretary of state refuses to issue a declaratory ruling, the
26 secretary of state shall notify the person making the request of
27 the reasons for the refusal and issue an interpretive statement
28 providing an informational response to the question presented
29 within the 60-day period. A declaratory ruling or interpretive



1 statement issued under this section must not state a general rule
2 of law, other than that which is stated in this act, or under
3 judicial order.

4 (3) Under extenuating circumstances, the secretary of state
5 may issue a notice extending, for not more than 30 business days,
6 the period during which the secretary of state shall respond to a
7 request for a declaratory ruling. The secretary of state shall not
8 issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular request. A
9 person requesting a declaratory ruling may waive, in writing, the
10 time limitations provided by this section.

11 (4) The secretary of state shall make available to the public
12 an annual summary of the declaratory rulings and interpretive
13 statements issued by the secretary of state under this section.

14 (5) A person may file with the secretary of state a complaint
15 that alleges a violation of this act. Within 5 business days after
16 a complaint that meets the requirements of subsection (6) is filed,
17 the secretary of state shall mail notice to the person against whom
18 the complaint is filed. The notice must include a copy of the
19 complaint. Within 15 business days after the notice is mailed, the
20 person against whom the complaint was filed may submit a response
21 to the secretary of state. The secretary of state may extend the
22 period for submitting a response an additional 15 business days for
23 good cause. The secretary of state shall mail a copy of a response
24 received to the complainant. Within 10 business days after the
25 response is mailed, the complainant may submit a rebuttal statement
26 to the secretary of state. The secretary of state may extend the
27 period for submitting a rebuttal statement an additional 10
28 business days for good cause. The secretary of state shall provide
29 a copy of the rebuttal statement to the person against whom the



1 complaint was filed. If, on review of the complaint, the secretary
2 of state determines that the complaint is frivolous, illegible,
3 indefinite, or unsigned, or does not identify an alleged violator,
4 allege a violation of the act, or contain a verification statement,
5 the secretary of state may summarily dismiss the complaint without
6 prejudice. If a complaint is summarily dismissed, the complainant
7 must be notified in writing as to the reason the complaint was
8 dismissed. The secretary of state may consolidate similar
9 complaints.

10 (6) A complaint filed under subsection (5) must satisfy all of
11 the following requirements:

12 (a) Be signed by the complainant.

13 (b) State the name, address, and telephone number of the
14 complainant.

15 (c) Include the complainant's certification that, to the best
16 of the complainant's knowledge, information, and belief, formed
17 after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual
18 contention of the complaint is supported by evidence. However, if,
19 after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, the complainant
20 is unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported
21 by evidence, the complainant may certify that, to the best of the
22 complainant's knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds
23 to conclude that those specifically identified factual contentions
24 are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable
25 opportunity for further inquiry.

26 (7) A person shall not file a complaint with a false
27 certificate under subsection (6) (c). A person may file a complaint
28 under subsection (5) alleging that another person has filed a
29 complaint with a false certificate under subsection (6) (c).



1 (8) The secretary of state shall investigate allegations
2 brought under this act. If an allegation involves the secretary of
3 state, or the secretary of state's spouse, the secretary of state
4 shall refer the matter to the attorney general to determine whether
5 a violation of this act occurred.

6 (9) No later than 45 business days after receiving a rebuttal
7 statement submitted under subsection (5) or, if no response or
8 rebuttal is received under subsection (5), 45 business days after
9 receiving a complaint under subsection (5), the secretary of state
10 shall post on the secretary of state's website whether there may be
11 reason to believe that a violation of this act occurred. If the
12 secretary of state determines whether there may be reason to
13 believe that a violation of this act occurred or determines to
14 terminate its proceedings, the secretary of state shall, within 30
15 days after that determination, post on the secretary of state's
16 website any complaint, response, or rebuttal statement received
17 under subsection (5) regarding that violation or alleged violation
18 and any correspondence that is dispositive of that violation or
19 alleged violation between the secretary of state and the
20 complainant or the person against whom the complaint was filed. If
21 the secretary of state determines there may be reason to believe
22 that a violation of this act occurred, the secretary of state shall
23 endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by
24 using informal methods such as a conference, conciliation, or
25 persuasion, and may enter into a conciliation agreement with the
26 person involved. Unless violated, a conciliation agreement is a
27 complete bar to any further civil action with respect to matters
28 covered in the conciliation agreement. The secretary of state
29 shall, within 30 days after a conciliation agreement is signed,



1 post that agreement on the department's website. If, after 90
2 business days, the secretary of state is unable to correct or
3 prevent further violation by these informal methods, the secretary
4 of state may commence a hearing as provided in subsection (10) for
5 enforcement of this act.

6 (10) The secretary of state may commence a hearing to
7 determine whether a violation of this act occurred. The hearing
8 must be conducted in accordance with chapter 4 of the
9 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to
10 24.288.

11 (11) A final decision or order issued by the secretary of
12 state under this act is subject to judicial review as provided
13 under chapter 6 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969
14 PA 306, MCL 24.301 to 24.306. The secretary of state shall deposit
15 a civil fine imposed under this act in the general fund. The
16 secretary of state may bring an action in circuit court to recover
17 the amount of a civil fine.

18 (12) The secretary of state shall review a report or statement
19 filed under this act and may investigate an apparent violation of
20 this act. If the secretary of state determines that there may be
21 reason to believe a violation of this act occurred and the
22 procedures prescribed in subsection (9) have been complied with,
23 the secretary of state may commence a hearing under subsection (10)
24 to determine whether a violation of this act occurred.

25 (13) There is no private right of action, either in law or in
26 equity, under this act. The remedies provided in this act are the
27 exclusive means by which this act may be enforced and by which any
28 harm resulting from a violation of this act may be redressed.

29 (14) The secretary of state shall preserve a report filed



1 under this act for 15 years after the date the report is filed. If
2 the secretary of state or attorney general determines under this
3 section that a violation of this act occurred, the secretary of
4 state shall preserve all complaints, orders, decisions, or other
5 documents related to that violation for 15 years after the date of
6 the determination or the date the violation is corrected, whichever
7 is later. Reports filed under this act may be reproduced under the
8 records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406. After
9 the required preservation period, the reports, or the reproductions
10 of the reports, may be disposed of in the manner prescribed in the
11 management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594, and
12 section 11 of the Michigan history center act, 2016 PA 470, MCL
13 399.811.

14 Sec. 15. (1) An individual who fails to file a report as
15 required under this act shall pay a late filing fee of \$25.00 for
16 each business day after the first 10 business days that the report
17 remains unfiled. The fee imposed under this subsection must not
18 exceed \$1,000.00.

19 (2) A late filing fee collected under this act must be
20 deposited into the general fund.

21 (3) An individual who knowingly files an incomplete or
22 inaccurate report in violation of this act may be ordered to pay a
23 civil fine of not more than \$2,000.00.

24 (4) A late filing fee assessed or civil fine imposed under
25 this act that remains unpaid for more than 180 days must be
26 referred to the department of treasury for collection.

27 (5) The amount of a late filing fee assessed or civil fine
28 imposed under this act must be adjusted for inflation every 4 years
29 using the Detroit Consumer Price Index.



1 Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless
2 Senate Bill No. 613 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into law.

