

HOUSE BILL 674
By Kisber

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2; Title 3 and Title 8, relative to campaign finance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 10, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section and by appropriately redesignating the remaining sections:

Section 2-10-102. The general assembly finds and declares that public confidence in the results of elections has diminished in recent years, as evidenced by declining participation in the voting process. The right of citizens to vote is inviolable and should not be diluted, distorted, or thwarted by practices that defeat the popular will. It is the purpose and intent of the general assembly to reform the system of campaign finance to promote ethical campaign practices and to ensure public confidence in the results of elections held in Tennessee.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 10, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 2-10-211. The registry is directed to conduct a study of campaign finance and voting in Tennessee, and to report the results of that study to the chairs of the house and senate select committees on ethics not later than January 1, 2002. The

study shall consider the extent to which the current system of campaign finance encourages or discourages voter participation, voter confidence, and ethical campaign practices. The study shall also consider whether citizens are being provided with adequate disclosure of campaign contributions and sources of funding of campaigns. The registry shall present any recommendations to the general assembly that the registry believes would improve voter participation and voter confidence, and that would promote ethical campaign practices.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.