

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB676

Chairperson: Senator Bill Avery

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 676 does four things:

1. Requires candidates and petition circulators to file an end-of-the-year bank statement of their campaign account.
2. Prohibits personal loans/borrowing from campaign accounts.
3. Raises NADC fines from \$2,000 to \$5,000.
4. Requires restitution in appropriate cases.

If auditors have access to a year-end bank statement, the plundering of campaign funds could easily be detected and could not continue over a period of years (as in the case of former Senator Council).

Dormant accounts of former candidates/elected officials cannot be monitored by NADC without a yearly bank statement. Many such accounts exist.

Prohibiting personal loans/borrowing from campaign funds will prevent a candidate (when caught in the act of plundering) from alleging that funds were merely "borrowed", with the intent of repaying them.

Increasing the maximum fine for abuses related to campaign funds accords more realistically with the nature of the offense and may have a greater deterrent effect.

Public confidence may be bolstered by these provisions.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ernie Chambers

