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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 114 of the 135th General Assembly

Senate General Government

Emily E. Wendel, Attorney

H.B. 114, As Passed by the House	H.B. 114, As Reported by S. General Gov't
Deadline to certify presidential candidates	
No provision.	<p>Delays the deadline, from August 7 to August 23, for a major political party to certify the names of its presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State for purposes of the 2024 general election.</p> <p>Allows a party to make that certification, for purposes of the 2024 election, in writing by any reasonably reliable method that, under the circumstances, will provide for the Secretary to receive it by the deadline, including hand delivery, U.S. mail, commercial carrier, fax, or email. <i>(Section 3 of the bill.)</i></p>
Use of campaign funds for child care	
Allows a candidate to use the candidate's campaign fund to pay the cost of child care while the candidate is campaigning or carrying out official duties, so long as the costs are incurred only as a direct result of the candidate's activities and would not otherwise be incurred.	<p>Same as the version As Passed by the House, but adds the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The child care costs must be reasonable. ▪ The child care must be rendered in Ohio. ▪ The beneficiary must be a primary caregiver of the child. ▪ The child must be 12 or younger.

H.B. 114, As Passed by the House	H.B. 114, As Reported by S. General Gov't
<p>Allows a candidate or public official or employee to accept funds from a political entity to pay the cost of child care while the person is campaigning or fundraising for the entity or attending a political meeting, so long as the costs are incurred only as a direct result of the candidate's activities and would not otherwise be incurred. <i>(R.C. 3517.13(R).)</i></p>	<p>Same as the version As Passed by the House, but adds the requirements listed above. <i>(R.C. 3517.13(R).)</i></p>
Campaign spending by foreign nationals	
<p>No provision.</p>	<p>Prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution or expenditure to support or oppose a state or local ballot issue, either directly or through another entity, and retains the current prohibition against a foreign national making a contribution or expenditure regarding a candidate.</p> <p>Prohibits a foreign national from soliciting another person to make a contribution or expenditure.</p> <p>Expands the list of entities that are prohibited from soliciting or accepting a contribution or expenditure from a foreign national.</p> <p>Prohibits any person from knowingly aiding or facilitating a violation of the prohibitions described above regarding foreign nationals.</p> <p>Prohibits a lawful permanent U.S. resident, also known as a green card holder, from making contributions or expenditures regarding ballot issues or candidates.</p> <p>Requires all political entities to certify on their campaign finance filings, under penalty of election falsification, that they have not knowingly accepted, and will not knowingly accept, any campaign contributions that are prohibited under the Campaign Finance Law. <i>(R.C. 3517.10 and 3517.13(W).)</i></p>
Expenditures from alternate sources of funds	
<p>No provision.</p>	<p>Clarifies that the term "expenditure" means the disbursement or use of a contribution <i>or other</i></p>

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	<i>funds</i> for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. (R.C. 3517.01(C)(6).)
Independent expenditures regarding ballot issues	
No provision.	Clarifies that the term “independent expenditure” includes an expenditure to advocate support of or opposition to an identified ballot issue or to achieve the successful circulation of an initiative or referendum petition, regardless of whether the issue has yet been certified to appear on the ballot. (R.C. 3517.01(C)(17).)
Ballot issue committees	
No provision.	Specifies that if the committee in charge of a statewide or local initiative or referendum petition receives a contribution or makes an expenditure for the purpose of achieving the successful circulation of the petition, the committee is considered a political action committee (PAC) for that purpose and must file periodic disclosures in the same manner as any other PAC. (R.C. 3517.12.)
Enforcement of the Campaign Finance Law	
No provision.	Requires, when the Ohio Elections Commission (OEC) refers a violation of the Campaign Finance Law for prosecution, that the Attorney General prosecute most cases that currently would go to the Franklin County Prosecutor. Provides a procedure for choosing a different prosecutor if the appropriate prosecutor is a victim or witness or otherwise involved in the case. Retains the existing penalty for violating the law regarding contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals, but requires a violator to return the contribution to the foreign national, in addition to paying a fine. Requires the OEC, if it finds a violation of that law, to either (1) impose the maximum fine and,

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	<p>if applicable, order the violator to return the funds, or (2) refer the matter for prosecution.</p> <p>Allows the Attorney General, if the OEC refers a violation of that law to a county prosecutor, to transfer the case to the Attorney General for prosecution upon the request of the county prosecutor or upon the Attorney General's own initiative, unless the Attorney General has a conflict of interest. (<i>R.C. 3517.13(W), 3517.155, and 3517.992.</i>)</p>