

Representative Mike Hawker

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House Bill 333

Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to public office expense term accounts and public office expense term account reserves."

House Bill 333 eliminates the reserve account for a legislator's Public Office Expense Term (POET) account, streamlining recordkeeping and removing barriers to when POET funds may be spent. Statutory limitations on POET funds, themselves, are unchanged, including how much can be transferred from a campaign account, how the funds can be spent and how any unused funds are disposed at the end of a legislator's term of office. There would also be no change to the accounting or reporting requirements.

The process in current statute is cumbersome, requiring the legislator to transfer anything more than \$5,000 as a lump sum from the campaign account to a POET *reserve* account, then annually transfer a limited amount to the POET account. Since expenditures from the POET account are restricted to office expenses and publicly reported each year, repealing the POET *reserve* removes an unnecessary hurdle and duplicate accounting without compromising accountability to the public for the legitimate use of those funds.