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House Bill 157

“An Act requiring the disclosure of the identity of certain persons, groups, and nongroup entities that expend money in support of or in opposition to an application filed for a state referendum or recall election; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 157 moves the statutory boundary for disclosing certain contributions and expenditures from those made to influence a referendum or recall election to an earlier point in the statutory process. It will require the reporting of certain campaign finance activity prior to the collection of signatures. This will align both the recall/referendum reporting requirements with reporting requirements for ballot initiatives.

Aligning reporting requirements will help the electorate make informed decisions, impose varying requirements based on type and level of advocacy, and otherwise embody the features that the Ninth Circuit identified in electioneering disclosure laws that survive exacting scrutiny under the First Amendment.

According to Legislative Legal, “this bill’s expansion of disclosure requirements in the recall and referendum context will likely survive a First Amendment challenge.”

House Bill 157 will streamline reporting requirements to regain and maintain the public’s trust in our election process.