

election-related offices. In addition to the VPA issues, the provisions of SB 1516 raise questions of equal protection regarding the treatment of corporations registered in Arizona that also have 501 status with the IRS and questions under Article 7, §. 16 of the Arizona Constitution regarding the publication of campaign contributions and expenditures. The Commission notes these issues for the record, but again, seeks as much as possible to harmonize its rules. The Commission retains its full authority to enforce Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 16 consistent with the terms of the statute, as well as the court interpretations which confirm its plain terms.

7. **A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and either relied on or did not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:**
Not applicable
8. **A showing of good cause why the rule is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:**
Not applicable
9. **The summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact, if applicable:**
Not applicable
10. **A description of any changes between the proposed rulemaking, including any supplemental proposed rulemaking, and final rulemaking package, (if applicable):**
Not applicable.
11. **An agency's summary of the public or stakeholder comments made about the rulemaking and the agency response to the comments, if applicable:**
The Commission solicits public comment throughout the rulemaking process.
12. **Any other matters prescribed by statute that are applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. When applicable, matters shall include, but not be limited to:**
 - a. **Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:**
Not applicable
 - b. **Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than the federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of the federal law:**
Not applicable
 - c. **Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:**
Not applicable
13. **A list of any incorporated by reference material and its location in the rules:**
Not applicable
14. **Whether this rule previously made, amended, repealed or renumbered as an emergency rule. If so, the agency shall state where the text changed between the emergency and the exempt rulemaking packages:**
The rule was not previously made, amended, repealed, or renumbered as an emergency rule.
15. **The full text of the rules follows:**

TITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER 20. CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION
ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

R2-20-109. Independent Expenditure Reporting Requirements

- A. In accordance with A.R.S. § 16-958(E), all persons obligated to file any campaign finance report under any provisions of Chapter 6, Article 2 of the Arizona Revised Statutes shall file such reports using the Secretary of State's Internet-based finance-reporting system, except if:
- (1) ~~e~~Expressly provided otherwise by another Commission rule; ~~or~~
 - (2) That system, or the necessary function on the system, is unavailable, in which case the executive director shall implement a substitute process.
- B. No change.
1. No change.
 2. Any person who fails to file:~~a~~ a timely campaign finance report pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-941(D), A.R.S. § 16-958, shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed in A.R.S. § 16-942(B). Subsection R2-20-109(B)(4) does not apply to reports pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 16-941(D) and -958 or this subsection. Any expenditure advocating against one or more candidates shall be considered an expenditure on behalf of any opposing candidate(s). Penalties shall be assessed as follows:
 - a. For an election involving a candidate for statewide office, the civil penalty shall be \$300 per day.
 - b. For an election involving a legislative candidate, the civil penalty shall be \$100 per day.
 - c. The penalties in (a) and (b) shall be doubled if the amount not reported for a particular election cycle exceeds ten (10%) percent of the applicable adjusted primary election spending limit or adjusted general election spending limit.
 - d. The dollar amounts in items (a) and (b), and the spending limits in item (c) are subject to adjustment of A.R.S. § 16-959.
 - e. Penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed twice the amount of expenditures not reported.
 - b. ~~A timely campaign finance report pursuant A.R.S. § 16-913, shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed in A.R.S. § 16-942(B), except as provided in A.R.S. 16-922(2).~~
 3. A.R.S. § 16-942(B) applies to any entity including political committees that accepts contributions or makes expenditures on behalf of any candidate regardless of any other contributions taken or expenditures made and fails to timely file a campaign finance report under Chapter 6 of Title 16, Arizona Revised Statutes. Any expenditure advocating against one or more candidates shall be considered an expenditure on behalf of any opposing candidate(s). Penalties shall be assessed as follows:
 - a. No change.
 - b. No change.
 - c. No change.
 - d. No change.
 - e. No change.
 4. ~~Any corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that is both (a) not registered as a political committee and (b) in compliance with or intends to comply with A.R.S. § 16-920(A)(6) and A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)(2) may seek an exemption from the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958(A) and (B) for an election cycle by applying to the Commission for an exemption using a form specified by the Commission's Executive Director.~~
 5. ~~The form shall contain, at a minimum, a sworn statement by a natural person authorized to bind the corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization certifying that the corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization:~~
 - a. ~~is in compliance with, and intends to remain in compliance with, the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)-(J); and~~
 - b. ~~has or intends to spend more than the applicable threshold prescribed by A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)(1) and (A)(2).~~

- ~~6. A corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that does not receive an exemption from the Commission must file the Clean Elections Act independent expenditure reports specified by A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958(A) (B).~~
- ~~7. Unless the request for an exemption is incomplete or the Executive Director is aware that any required statement is untrue or incorrect, the Executive Director shall grant the exemption. Civil penalties shall not accrue during the pendency of a request for exemption.
 - ~~a. If the Executive Director deems the application for exemption is incomplete the person may reapply within two weeks of the Executive Director's decision by filing a completed application for exemption.~~
 - ~~b. The denial of an exemption pursuant to this subsection is an appealable agency action. The Executive Director shall draft and serve notice of an appealable agency action pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.03 and § 41-1092.04 on the respondent. The notice shall identify the following:
 - ~~i. The specific facts constituting the denial;~~
 - ~~ii. A description of the respondent's right to request a hearing and to request and informal settlement conference; and~~
 - ~~iii. A description of what the respondent may do if the respondent wishes to remedy the situation without appealing the Commission's decision.~~~~~~
- ~~8. A corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that has received an exemption is exempt from the filing requirements of A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958 and the civil penalties outlined in A.R.S. § 16-942, provided that the exempt entity, during the election cycle (a) remains in compliance with the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-914.02 (A) (J) and (b) remains in compliance with section part (2) of this subsection (F). All Commission rules and statutes related to enforcement apply to exempt entities. The Commission may audit these entities.~~
- ~~9. Any person may file a complaint with the Commission alleging that (a) any corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that has applied for or received an exemption under this subsection has provided false information in an application or violated the terms of the exemption stated in part (8) of this subsection (F); or (b) any person that has not applied for or received an exemption has violated A.R.S. § 16-941(D), § 16-958, or parts (1), (2), or (6) of this subsection (F). Complaints shall be processed as prescribed in Article 2 of these rules. If the Commission finds that a complaint is valid, the person complained of shall be liable as outlined in A.R.S. § 16-942(B) and part (3) of this subsection (F), in addition to any other penalties applicable pursuant to rule or statute.~~
- ~~10. Neither a form filed seeking an exemption pursuant to this subsection (F) nor a Clean Elections Act independent expenditure report filed as specified by A.R.S. § 16-9958 constitutes an admission that the filer is or should be considered a political committee. The grant of an exemption pursuant to this subsection (F) does not constitute a finding or determination that the filer is or should be considered a political committee.~~
- ~~4. For purposes of this rule A.A.C. R2-20-109(B)(3):
 - ~~a. An entity shall not be found to have the predominant purpose of influencing elections be a political committee under A.R.S. §16-901(210)(f) unless, a preponderance of the evidence establishes that during a two-year legislative election cycle, the total reportable contributions made by the entity plus the total reportable expenditures made by the entity, in any combination, in a calendar year exceeds \$1,000 ~~exceeds both \$500 and~~ is more than fifty percent (50%) of the entity's total spending during the election cycle.
 - ~~i. No change.~~
 - ~~ii. No change.~~
 - ~~iii. No change.
 - ~~(1) No change.~~
 - ~~(2) No change.~~~~
 - ~~iv. No change.~~
 - ~~v. No change.~~~~~~

(1) No change.

(2) No change.

- b. Notwithstanding section a above, the commission may nonetheless determine that an entity is not a political committee if, taking into account all the facts and circumstances of grants made by an entity, it is not persuaded that the preponderance of the evidence establishes that the entity is a political committee as defined in title 16 of Arizona Revised Statutes.