

certain other information. The threshold for itemization is \$50. See 254.031, Tex. Elec. Code. Most candidates and officeholders are also required to file these reports electronically.

The purpose of P.L. 106-230 is to ensure full disclosure of political contributions and expenditures. Form 1120-POL does not provide the public with any additional information on contributions and expenditures. Moreover, Form 990-EZ provides only aggregated information. If the public wants detailed information on a Texas House member's contributions and expenditures, the public must still go to the Texas Ethics Commission reports.

I hope you find this information helpful. As I had stated to you in our conversation, the draft legislation proposed by Representative Doggett does not address the concerns of state legislators with P.L. 106-230. I urge you to suggest reworking Representative Doggett's proposed legislation to exempt state legislators from the burdensome and duplicative requirements of P.L. 106-230. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. I may be reached at 202-624-3566, or by e-mail at Susan.Frederick@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

SUSAN PARNAS FREDERICK,
*Committee Director,
NCSL Law and Justice.*

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I made the argument. I hope the amendment will be accepted. I understand we will need to clear it through the Finance Committee and make sure they are also not opposed to it.

But I believe if anyone looks at the technical nature of this amendment, they will support it. It would take a terrible burden away from our State legislators and local candidates for mayor or city council.

I certainly hope we can do that in an expedited way.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wanted to speak for a few moments as if in morning business to talk about the budget and what the distinguished Senator from New Mexico is proposing.

I was privileged to be in a briefing to learn what the committee is looking at. It was discussed earlier on the floor that the bill is going to come straight out of committee.

I am pleased that is going to happen because I would like to have just as much say in the budget as would any Member of the Senate. We will have 30 or 50 hours of debate. We will have plenty of time to discuss our priorities. But with this evenly divided Senate, more and more, all of us are going to have the opportunity on the floor to

have our input rather than not have it come to the floor and bog down the process.

I am very pleased with what we are hearing. I am very pleased that we are bringing the budget up on an expedited basis because I think we need to move swiftly. Our country is looking at an economic downturn. Many people think it is a recession. I hope it isn't. But, nevertheless, I think action is needed. I think action on behalf of the American people is warranted at this time.

I think setting the budget and determining what our priority expenditures are going to be and looking at giving tax relief to American workers at this time is even more important than it was when we first introduced the idea because many of us believe that having this huge budget surplus sitting in Washington, DC, is certainly not good economic policy and it isn't good fiscal policy.

It is time for us to make sure the money that is sitting in Washington, DC, in excess of what is needed for the running of our Government be put back in the pocketbooks of the people of this country.

I am very pleased we are working on an expedited basis. I am pleased we are going to take up a budget. I am pleased Senator DOMENICI, the leader of the Budget Committee, is pushing right now, right this minute, for an immediate tax relief plan—something that people will see is going to come. They will know for sure that is going to come, and that it will come, hopefully, on an expedited basis.

I am very proud the Budget Committee is moving forward in this fashion. I am so proud of our leadership. I hope we can work with the other side of the aisle so all of us will have equal input in the 30 to 50 hours of debate that we have on the budget resolution so we can establish our priorities; so we can preserve Medicare; so we can have real Medicare reform to include prescription drugs; so we can have the new added expenditures that we know we are going to need to upgrade the quality of life for those serving in our military; and so we can increase spending on public education to make sure every child has a quality public education, which is the foundation for democracy.

I think we will have those added expenditures and we will have tax relief for the American people.

If we can take up this budget resolution a week from Monday, we will do it on an expedited basis.

I am proud of Senator DOMENICI and the leadership of the Budget Committee. I am proud of our leadership and their working with our President to make sure we have tax relief for hard-working Americans.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001— Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 111

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss this amendment which I am sorry to oppose.

I appreciate the involvement of the Senator from Texas in this issue and on this particular aspect of it because it was the first major breakthrough we were able to make in the area of campaign finance reform requiring full disclosure of 527 activities.

Now that full disclosure has been obtained, we find some fascinating things have gone on in the name of campaign activities, such as buying trucks, giving people very generous salaries, renting office space—very interesting things.

Basically, as I read this amendment, it does not require the State and local political committees to notify and report the requirements imposed in 527.

As I understand the comments of the Senator from Texas, I guess somehow it gives them burdensome paperwork that would be difficult for them to achieve in the case of 527s.

They are making these reports, and all they have to do is make a copy and send it to Washington. So for a 527, it seems to me, it would not be that hard to use a copying machine. In fact, you might want to even go down to Kinko's and get one there.

But more importantly, this is a reversal of full disclosure. Everybody, no matter which side they are on in this debate, says an integral and vital part of the problem is full disclosure. This is obviously a reversal thereof.

Also, staff informs me that this entire bill would be blue-slipped if this amendment were made part of it because it touches the Tax Code. Changes in the Tax Code originate in the House of Representatives and it would have to come out of the Ways and Means Committee.

So I will be opposing this amendment. I appreciate the involvement of the Senator from Texas. But to exempt people from making a copy of their financial disbursements in their campaign activities and sending it on to Washington, where, if Senator COCHRAN's amendment is going to be agreed to as part of this bill, it would be posted on the Internet and all would be able to see it, is obviously not something that I would really very much favor. I would want Americans to know all this information.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I respond to the Senator from Arizona by saying, first of all, I hope he will work with me to try to have the purpose of my amendment added to this bill. If there is a specific problem, I would like to work with the Senator because I do not think the amendment we had last year, that affected the 527