

Senate Bill 221

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics
2 in government, so as to provide for a definition; to provide for leadership committees; to
3 provide for chairpersons; to provide that such committees may receive contributions and
4 make expenditures; to provide for disposition of assets in certain circumstances; to provide
5 for filings and reports; to provide an exception from contribution limits; to provide for certain
6 notices; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in
10 government, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "21-5-34.2.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'leadership committee' means a committee,
13 corporation, or organization chaired by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the
14 nominee of a political party for Governor selected in a primary election in the year in
15 which he or she is nominated, or the nominee of a political party for Lieutenant Governor
16 selected in a primary election in the year in which he or she is nominated. Such term shall

17 also mean up to two political action committees designated by the majority caucus of the
18 House of Representatives, the minority caucus of the House of Representatives, the
19 majority caucus of the Senate, and the minority caucus of the Senate. No person may chair
20 more than one leadership committee.

21 (b) A leadership committee may receive contributions from persons who are members or
22 supporters of the leadership committee and expend such funds as permitted by this Code
23 section.

24 (c) If a person chairing a leadership committee ceases to hold the office or the status as a
25 nominee of a political party as described in subsection (a) of this Code section, such person
26 shall transfer the remaining assets of the leadership committee, if any, to another leadership
27 committee within 60 days, name an eligible person as the new chairperson of the leadership
28 committee within 60 days, or dispose of the leadership committee's assets as provided by
29 Code Section 21-5-33.

30 (d) A leadership committee may accept contributions or make expenditures for the purpose
31 of affecting the outcome of any election or advocating for the election or defeat of any
32 candidate, may defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with any
33 candidate's campaign for elective office, and may defray ordinary and necessary expenses
34 incurred in connection with a public officer's fulfillment or retention of such office.

35 (e) A leadership committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess
36 of \$500.00 shall register with the commission within ten days of such accepted contribution
37 or such expenditure and, thereafter, shall file disclosure reports pursuant to the schedule
38 defined for candidates and campaign committees in subsection (c) of Code
39 Section 21-5-34. Such disclosure reports shall be made pursuant to subsection (b) of Code
40 Section 21-5-34. The contribution limits in Code Section 21-5-41 shall not apply to
41 contributions to a leadership committee or expenditures made by a leadership committee
42 in support of a candidate or a group of named candidates. All communications paid for by
43 expenditures of the leadership committee shall contain a disclaimer, either audibly or in

44 writing, that the communication is paid for by the leadership committee, unless such
45 disclaimer is impractical.
46 (f) A leadership committee shall be a separate legal entity from a candidate's campaign
47 committee and shall not be considered an independent committee."

48

SECTION 2.

49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.