



Date: February 25, 2025 | Policy Analyst: Megan Bolin | Prepared For: Rep. Shepherd

## H.B. 504, Financial and Conflict of Interest Disclosures by Candidates Amendments

### Reporting Requirements by Office

This bill modifies financial and conflict of interest reporting requirements for candidates when filing a declaration of candidacy and when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy. **Table 1** shows the existing and new requirements for local, state, and school board candidates.

**Table 1: Existing and New Requirements Related to Financial and Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

	Local Office and Local School Board Candidates	State Office Candidates	State School Board Candidates
<b>Conflict of Interest Disclosure</b>	<b>Existing:</b> not required under current law <b>New:</b> required when filing a declaration of candidacy and when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy	<b>Existing:</b> required when filing a declaration of candidacy <b>New:</b> required when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy	<b>Existing:</b> required when filing a declaration of candidacy <b>New:</b> required when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy
<b>Campaign Finance Report</b>	<b>Existing:</b> required for an individual who files a declaration of candidacy <b>New:</b> required for individuals seeking to fill a midterm vacancy	<b>Existing:</b> required for an individual who files a declaration of candidacy and required when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy	<b>Existing:</b> required for an individual who files a declaration of candidacy <b>New:</b> required when seeking to fill a midterm vacancy

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Currently, the conflict of interest disclosure form requires a candidate/officeholder to disclose the name of the candidate's/officeholder's spouse and name of any adult residing in the candidate's/officeholder's household who is not related by blood or marriage. Additionally, the form requires disclosure of a spouse's current employers and each employer during the preceding year, including the spouse's occupation and job title. For an adult who is not related by blood or marriage who resides in the candidate's/officeholder's household, the form requires a brief description of the adult's employment and occupation.

This bill would require the candidate/officeholder to disclose the employment and occupation information for their spouse or an adult residing in their household only if the candidate/officeholder believes that:



- their spouse's employment may constitute a conflict of interest; or
- the adult's presence in the household may constitute a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest disclosure is publicly available. However, this bill provides that if a candidate/officeholder or a candidate's/officeholder's spouse is an at-risk government employee, the candidate may request that the filing officer responsible for posting the disclosure redacts the candidate's/officeholder's employment information and their spouse's name and employment information.

An "at-risk government employee" means a current or former:

- peace officer as specified in Section 53-13-102;
- state or federal judge of an appellate, district, justice, or juvenile court, or court commissioner;
- judge authorized by Title 39A, Chapter 5, Utah Code of Military Justice;
- judge authorized by Armed Forces, Title 10, United States Code;
- federal prosecutor;
- prosecutor appointed by Armed Forces, Title 10, United States Code;
- law enforcement official as defined in Section 53-5-711;
- prosecutor authorized by Title 39A, Chapter 5, Utah Code of Military Justice; or
- state or local government employee who, because of the unique nature of the employee's regular work assignments or because of one or more recent credible threats directed to or against the employee, would be at immediate and substantial risk of physical harm if the employee's personal information is disclosed.

If a candidate/officeholder makes such a request, the filing officer must make the redaction before publicly posting the disclosure.

### **Campaign Finance Report**

Currently, a state office candidate seeking to fill a midterm vacancy is required to file a campaign finance report seven days and then again two days before the day on which the political party for which the candidate seeks nomination meets to declare the party's nominee. This bill requires the filing of only one campaign finance report no later than three business days before the day on which the party meets.