

Senate Bill No. 216

An act relating to campaign financing; creating s. 106.113, F.S.; defining the terms “local government” and “public funds”; prohibiting a local government from expending, and a person or group from accepting, public funds for a political advertisement or electioneering communication concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment that is subject to the vote of the electors; providing an exception for certain electioneering communications; clarifying restrictions with respect to local officials; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 106.113, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

106.113 Expenditures by local governments.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Local government” means:

1. A county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision in this state; and

2. Any department, agency, board, bureau, district, commission, authority, or similar body of a county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision of this state.

(b) “Public funds” means all moneys under the jurisdiction or control of the local government.

(2) A local government or a person acting on behalf of local government may not expend or authorize the expenditure of, and a person or group may not accept, public funds for a political advertisement or electioneering communication concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment, including any state question, that is subject to a vote of the electors. This subsection does not apply to an electioneering communication from a local government or a person acting on behalf of a local government which is limited to factual information.

(3) With the exception of the prohibitions specified in subsection (2), this section does not preclude an elected official of the local government from expressing an opinion on any issue at any time.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2009.