

Queensland



GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY CONTROL BILL 2000

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2000

A BILL

FOR

**An Act to provide for the scrutiny of, and guidelines for, government
publicity that appears to have the capacity to influence public
support for a political party or its candidates or for a member of
the Legislative Assembly, and for other purposes**

The Parliament of Queensland enacts—

1

Short title

2

Clause **1.** This Act may be cited as the *Government Publicity Control Act 2000*.

3

Act amended

4

Clause **2.** This Act amends the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1995*.

5

Amendment of s 2 (Main object of Act and its achievement)

6

Clause **3.(1)** Section 2(2)(a) to (f)—

7

renumber as section 2(2)(b) to (g).

8

(2) Section 2(2)—

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insert—

10

‘(a) ensuring, as far as possible, public money is not expended on government publicity for a partisan political purpose; and’.

11

12

Amendment of s 4 (Establishment of statutory committees)

13

Clause **4.** Section 4—

14

insert—

15

‘• Government Publicity Review Committee’.

16

Insertion of new pt 4, div 7

17

Clause **5.** In part 4, after section 23—

18

insert—

19

‘Division 7—Government Publicity Review Committee	1
‘Area of responsibility of Government Publicity Review Committee	2
‘23A. The Government Publicity Review Committee’s area of responsibility is—	3
(a) to ensure, as far as possible, public money is not expended on government publicity for a partisan political purpose; and	4
(b) to scrutinise, and formulate guidelines for, government publicity that appears to the committee to have the capacity of being used for that purpose.	5
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‘Identification of government publicity for political purposes	10
‘23B. The committee’s area of responsibility includes identifying government publicity that appears to the committee to have the capacity to influence public support for a political party, a candidate or a member.	11
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	13
‘Guidelines and public authorities	14
‘23C.(1) The committee’s area of responsibility includes—	15
(a) formulating guidelines for government publicity; and	16
(b) providing advice, at the request of a public authority, as to whether any publicity on which it proposes to incur expenditure meets the guidelines; and	17
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	19
(c) monitoring and reviewing expenditure by public authorities on government publicity; and	20
	21
(d) examining and reviewing the practices and procedures of public authorities in securing government publicity.	22
	23
‘(2) The guidelines are to recommend the matters to be taken into account by public authorities in deciding whether to incur expenditure on government publicity.	24
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	26
‘(3) The guidelines may include recommendations regarding the appropriate content and style, way of dissemination and cost of government publicity.	27
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	29

Government Publicity Control

‘(4) In its annual report under section 33, the committee must include a report to the Legislative Assembly about compliance by public authorities with its guidelines for government publicity.

‘(5) Also, the committee may also table in the Legislative Assembly at any time it considers appropriate a report to the Legislative Assembly about compliance by public authorities or a particular public authority with its guidelines for government publicity.’.

Amendment sch 2 (Dictionary)

Clause 6. Schedule 2, dictionary—

insert—

‘**“candidate”**, in relation to an election, means a person who has become a candidate for an election under the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 88(3).¹

“election” means an election of any member or members of the Legislative Assembly.

“government publicity” means any advertisement promotional campaign, public relations campaign, announcement or way of publicising any governmental activities, programs or initiatives that is funded by public money.

“party” means a body or organisation, incorporated or unincorporated, that has as one of its objects or activities the promotion of the election to the Legislative Assembly of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it or by a body or organisation of which it forms part, and includes any coalition of bodies or organisations having those objects or activities.

“public authority” means a public or local authority constituted by or under an Act, a government department or a statutory body representing the State or subject to the control and direction of a Minister, and includes a person performing functions for the authority, department or body.’.

¹ Electoral Act 1992, section 88 (Announcement of nominations)