

Campaign Funds Filing Law Killed

Washington

The House yesterday killed a proposed regulation of the Federal Election Commission that would have required members of Congress to file their campaign financial reports with the new agency.

Representative Wayne L. Hays (Dem.-Ohio), who led the fight against the regulation, said that the 257 to 148 vote was a "warning" to the commission "not to be capricious and not to rewrite the law."

This was the second successive loss by the election commission in its first two

attempts to win congressional approval for its regulations. Two weeks ago the Senate rejected a rule making members of Congress politically accountable for their office funds, by a 48 to 47 vote.

Supporters of the regulation, outnumbered in debate as well as votes, argued that the 1974 campaign finance law clearly required the initial filing of contribution and spending reports with the commission, rather than with the Senate secretary and House clerk.

Chairman Thomas B. Curtis of the

commission said he was "disappointed" by the action because the agency believed the regulation carried out both the spirit and the letter of the law.

Hays, who opposed establishment of the commission last year, mustered an impressive roster of speakers including Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the Democratic floor leader from Massachusetts; John J. Rhodes of Arizona, his Republican counterpart, and John B. Anderson, chairman of the House Republican Conference, who had voted for the regulation only two days ago.

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