## **HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 4197**

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to campaign finance disclosure and transparency.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The definition of "Electioneering communication" in section 1 of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 89, the words "and (7) internet or email communications" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- (7) email communications; and (8) internet communications which are not paid advertisements.

SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of "Electioneering communication" the following definition:-

"Electioneering communication expenditure", any expenditure made or liability incurred by an individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity as payment for an electioneering communication including any transfer of money or anything of value to that individual or entity or another individual or entity for the purpose of making an electioneering communication.

SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the definition of "Independent expenditure" and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

"Independent expenditure", an expenditure made or liability incurred by an individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or other entity as payment for goods or services including any transfer of money or anything of value to that individual or entity for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, which is made or incurred without cooperation or consultation with any candidate or a nonelected political committee organized on behalf of the candidate or an agent of the

23 candidate and which is not made or incurred in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the candidate, a nonelected political committee organized on behalf of the candidate or agent of such candidate. 25

SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby further 26 amended by inserting after the definition of "Legislative agent" the following definition:-27

28 "People's committee", a political committee which is not a candidate's committee, a 29 political party committee or a ballot question committee, which (a) only receives contributions 30 from individuals, (b) limits contributions received from any individual to the indexed amount provided for in this section, in the definition of "political action committee", (c) which has been 31 32 in existence for six months or more, and (d) and which contributes to five or more candidates. 33 Such a committee shall initially organize as a political action committee and may become a 34 people's committee after six months.

SECTION 5. Section 3 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding 36 the following paragraph:-

The director shall adopt regulations regarding electioneering communication 38 expenditures and independent expenditures that involve the disclosure of any transfers of money or anything of value from one individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity to another individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity for the 40 purpose of making an electioneering expenditure or independent expenditure to ensure that the 42 true origin of that expenditure is disclosed in the manner and on the schedule for reports of such 43 expenditures provided for by this chapter.

44 SECTION 6. Said chapter 55 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting 45 the following new section after section 5B:-

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Section 5C. The office of campaign and political finance shall prepare and update from time to time a training program to provide information on the requirements of this chapter 48 applicable to treasurers of political committees that file reports with the office. Every treasurer of such a committee shall, within 30 days after filing an acceptance of the position with the 50 office in accordance with section 5, and every 2 years thereafter, complete the online training 52 program.

53 The office shall establish procedures for implementing this section and ensuring 54 compliance.

55 SECTION 7. Section 6 of chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the first and second paragraphs of the section and inserting in place thereof the following three 56 57 paragraphs:-

Section 6. A political committee organized or operating on behalf of a candidate for the 59 office of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state secretary, treasurer and receiver general, or auditor may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for reasonable and necessary expenses directly related to the campaign of such candidate but shall not make any expenditure that is primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use. Any other political committee, duly organized on behalf of a candidate may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate or the principle, for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use, provided, however, that the director shall establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning such expenditures.

Any political committee duly organized on behalf of a candidate may contribute to other political committees and may contribute to the campaign fund of a candidate; provided that the aggregate of all such contributions made by such a committee organized on behalf of a candidate to another non-elected political committee organized on behalf of a candidate shall not exceed in any one calendar year the sum of one hundred dollars; and provided further, that the aggregate of all such contributions made by such a committee organized on behalf of a candidate to other nonelected political committees organized on behalf of candidates shall not exceed in any one calendar year the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, a political committee organized on behalf of a 77 candidate for statewide office which receives public financing under chapter 55C may not contribute to other political committees or the campaign fund of a candidate in the calendar year in which such political committee receives public financing, except a committee that receives such public financing may expend funds to a political party committee for goods or services provided by the political party committee to the candidate's committee.

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SECTION 8. Section 7 of said chapter 55 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 36 to 49, the words "Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 19, a 84 85 candidate required to designate a depository for campaign funds by section nineteen and a person acting for such a candidate or such a political committee shall pay for services rendered or goods 86 sold in excess of the sum of fifty dollars only through or by the means of a check drawn upon 87 such depository and bearing the legend "Campaign Account - (name of candidate or political 88 committee)", and shall secure the signature of the person receiving such check to the following 90 certificate to be printed on all such checks: "The undersigned affirms under the penalties of perjury that he is the named payee of this check or an authorized officer thereof, that he or it performed the services or delivered the goods indicated hereon, that the payment is for the sole 92 purpose of paying for such goods or services and that no person other than the named payee has any interest, direct or indirect, in this payment".

- 95 SECTION 9. Section 7A of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 96 official edition, is hereby amended by striking the words "five hundred" in line 4 and inserting in 97 place thereof:- "one thousand."
- 98 SECTION 10. Said Section 7A of chapter 55 is further amended by deleting subsection 99 (a)(5) appearing in lines 19-22 of the 2014 official edition.
- SECTION 11. Section 8 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 22, the words "Any corporation violating any provision of this section" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Any such corporation violating this chapter.
- SECTION 12. Section 9 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph of the section and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-
- A political committee may maintain and use a credit or debit card, obtained in accordance with applicable banking laws and in the ordinary course of business, in order to make expenditures for the purpose for which said committee was organized, pursuant to the provisions of section six, but provided that no contribution of money may be accepted by any individual, candidate or political committee, or person acting on behalf of said individual, candidate or political committee, other than in accordance with the first paragraph of this section. The director shall establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning the use of such credit and debit cards, and shall provide instruction on disclosure of said expenditures by credit and debit card, to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.
- SECTION 13. The first paragraph of section 13 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after first sentence, in line 8, the following words:- A person so employed may not serve as treasurer of a political committee.
- SECTION 14. The first paragraph of Section 18 of said Chapter 55, as appearing in the 2012 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words, in lines 6-10 "with a total population, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, of between 40,000 and 100,000 persons, if the candidate or the candidate's committee, during the election cycle, can reasonably expect to raise or spend more than \$5,000".
- SECTION 15. Section 18 of said Chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting, after the words "as aforesaid," in line 75, the following words:-other than political action committees and people's committees, as defined in section 1, and independent expenditure PACs organized under section 18A,.
- SECTION 16. Section 18A of said Chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

129 Section 18A. (a) Every individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political 130 committee, or other entity that makes independent expenditures in an aggregate amount exceeding \$250 during any calendar year for the express purpose of promoting the election or 131 132 defeat of a candidate shall file with the director, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), 133 within 7 business days after the goods or services for which the independent expenditure was made are utilized to advocate for the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, on a 134 135 form prescribed by the director, a report stating: (1) the name and address of the individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or other entity making any such 136 independent expenditures; (2) the name of the candidate whose election or defeat the expenditure 137 138 promoted; (3) the name and address of any person to whom the expenditures were made; (4) the total amount or value; and (5) the purpose and the date of each independent expenditure. 139

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- (b) In addition to any reports required by subsection (a), any individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or other entity that makes an independent expenditure in an aggregate amount exceeding \$250 after the tenth day, but more than 24 hours, before the date of any election, shall file a preliminary report within 24 hours after the goods or services for which the independent expenditure was made are utilized, disclosing: (1) the name and address of the individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or other entity making the expenditure; (2) the name of the candidate whose election or defeat the expenditure promoted; (3) the name and address of any person to whom the independent expenditures were made; and (4) the purpose and the date of each expenditure.
- (c) The individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or other entity shall file an additional preliminary report within 24 hours after each time goods or services valued at \$250 or more, obtained by the making of an independent expenditure, are utilized with respect to the same election as that to which the initial report relates, and shall also file any report required by subsection (a).
  - (d) The reports required by this section shall be filed with the director as provided in section 18C if expenditures are made to promote the election or defeat of any candidate who files with the director. Reports required by this section shall be filed with the city or town clerk if the expenditures are made to promote the election or defeat of any candidate seeking public office at a city or town election who does not file with the director.
- (e) A political committee that receives donations to make independent expenditures is an "independent expenditure PAC." Such PACs shall organize in accordance with section 5, and file reports in accordance with the schedule in section 18A(a) to (c) to disclose expenditures. Such reports shall, in addition to disclosing expenditures, also disclose all campaign finance information required to be disclosed by other political action committees, as listed in section 18. The reporting period for the first report filed by an independent expenditure PAC shall commence on the day the committee was organized and be complete through the date of the expenditure(s) disclosed in the report. The reporting period for the next report shall commence

- on the date following the last date included in the previous report and be complete through the
- 168 date of the expenditure(s) disclosed. Independent expenditure PACs shall also file year-end
- 169 reports on or before the twentieth day of January each year the committee remains in existence,
- 170 and shall file a final report on dissolution. The reporting period for the year-end report shall be
- 171 cumulative for the calendar year, commencing on January first and ending on December thirty-
- 172 first of each calendar year. The director shall adopt regulations regarding independent
- 173 expenditure PACs.
- (f) A violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more
- 175 than \$5,000 or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 1 year.
- SECTION 17. Section 18C of Chapter 55, as appearing in the 2012 official edition, is
- 177 hereby amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
- Section 18C. (a) The director shall develop an electronic reporting system for the
- 179 submission, retrieval, storage and public disclosure of campaign finance reports and financial
- 180 activity statements required to be filed with the director.
- (b) The following individuals and political committees shall be required to file
- 182 electronically by modem or via computer terminals provided or approved by the director:
- (1) Each candidate that files with the director and the committee organized on behalf of
- 184 such candidate;
- 185 (2) Each ballot question committee that files with the director;
- 186 (3) Each state party committee referred to in section 1 of chapter 52;
- 187 (4) Each local party committee referred to in sections 2 and 3 of chapter 52, that raises or
- 188 spends more than \$5,000 in an election cycle;
- (5) any other political committee, other than a candidate's committee or a ballot question
- 190 committee, if such political committee is aiding or promoting the success or defeat of one or
- 191 more candidates that file with the director;
- (6) reports of late contributions received, by every political committee organized on
- behalf of a candidate that files with the director, including committees required to designate a
- 194 depository on behalf of a candidate and every ballot question committee that files with the
- 195 director, which receives and deposits a contribution of \$500 or more after the eighteenth day, but
- more than 72 hours, before the date of a special, preliminary, primary or general election within
- 197 72 hours of depositing such contribution;
- 198 (7) reports of late contributions received, by every state committee referred to in section 1
- 199 of chapter 52 required to designate a depository by section 19 of this chapter, which receives a
- 200 contribution of \$500 or more after the eighteenth day, but more than 24 hours before, the date of

- a special, preliminary, primary or general election, within 72 hours of depositing such contribution;
- 203 (8) for every political committee required to file campaign finance reports electronically 204 with the director, any reports filed pursuant to section 18D made to disclose expenditures by 205 vendors of the committee to subvendors;
- 206 (9) an individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, political committee, or 207 other entity that is required to file a report of independent expenditures with the director in 208 accordance with section 18A;
- 209 (10) every individual, group, association, corporation, labor union, or other entity that 210 makes an electioneering communication expenditure in an aggregate amount exceeding \$250 during any calendar year in accordance with section 18F.
- SECTION 18. Section 18D of Chapter 55, as appearing in the 2012 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-
- Section 18D. (a) For the purpose of this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-
- "Expenditure", any payment made or liability incurred by a vendor on behalf of a political committee, or on behalf of an individual or group required to file a report of ballot question expenditures under section 22.
- "Person", a natural person, corporation, association, partnership or other legal entity.
- "Subvendor", a person providing goods or services to a vendor or who contracts with a vendor to provide goods or services to a committee, or to an individual or group required to file a report of ballot question expenditures under section 22.
- "Vendor", any person including, but not limited to, a consultant, who provides goods or services to a political committee that files with the director or to an individual or group required to file a report of ballot question expenditures under section 22, and either receives or is promised \$5,000 or more in the aggregate during a calendar year by the committee or individual or group for such goods or services, or contracts with another on behalf of the committee, individual or group for such goods or services valued at \$5,000 or more in the aggregate to be provided to the committee, individual or group.
- (b) A vendor that makes an expenditure on behalf of a political committee, or to an individual or group required to file a report of ballot question expenditures under section 22, shall within 5 days of making such expenditure provide the political committee, individual or group, with a detailed account of the expenditure including, but not limited to, the date of the

234 expenditure, the person who received payment, the full name and address of the subvendor, the purpose of the expenditure, and the amount of the expenditure.

- 236 (c) A political committee, or an individual or group required to file a report of ballot 237 question expenditures under section 22, that makes a payment to a vendor or incurs a liability to a vendor shall file reports with the director, or if the expenditure concerns a local candidate who 238 does not file with the director, or a local ballot question, with the clerk, disclosing the full name 240 and address, listed alphabetically, of each subvendor receiving payments of more than \$500 in 241 the aggregate during a calendar year from the vendor, and of each subvendor to whom a liability 242 of more than \$500 was incurred. The contents of such report shall include the information required by section 18 and shall be disclosed on a form prescribed by the director. For 244 committees required to designate a depository account under section 19, the reports shall be filed on or before the fifth day of each month covering the preceding month; provided, however, that 246 for other committees, individuals or groups, the report must be filed in accordance with the schedule established by sections 18 and 22. 247
- 248 (d) Vendors shall keep detailed accounts of all expenditures made on behalf of political 249 committees, or on behalf of individuals or groups required to file a report of ballot question 250 expenditures under section 22.

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SECTION 19. Said chapter 55 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by striking out section 18F, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-252

253 Section 18F. Every individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity 254 not defined as a political committee who makes an electioneering communication expenditure, in an aggregate amount exceeding \$250 during a calendar year, shall electronically file with the 255 256 director, within 7 days after making that expenditure, a report stating the name and address of the 257 individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity making the electioneering 258 communication, the name of any candidate clearly identified in the communication, the total amount or value of the communication, the name and address of the vendor to whom the 259 260 payments were made and the purpose and date of any such expenditure. In addition, any 261 individual, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity not defined as a political 262 committee who makes electioneering communication expenditures, in an aggregate amount 263 exceeding \$250 during a calendar year, who receives funds for the purpose of making such 264 electioneering communications shall include in the electronic filing the date the funds were 265 received and the name and address of the provider of any such funds in excess of \$250, if any, and the value of the funds received. Reports required under this section shall be filed with the 267 director, as provided in section 18C, if electioneering communications refer to any candidate 268 who files with the director. Reports required under this section shall be filed with the city or 269 town clerk if the electioneering communications refer to any candidate seeking public office in a 270 city or town election who does not otherwise file with the director.

Any person, group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity that makes or 272 contracts to make electioneering communications aggregating \$1,000 or more within 7 days 273 before the date of an election shall file a report containing the information required under this 274 section within 48 hours after making such expenditure.

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A violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 1 year.

SECTION 20. Section 18G of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following 1 paragraph:-

If the independent expenditure or electioneering communication is paid for by an entity that is not an individual, the advertisement or communication shall contain the words "Top 280 Contributors" and a written statement listing the 5 persons or entities, or if less than 5 persons or 281 282 entities then the total of all such persons or entities, making the largest contributions to that entity for the purpose of making an independent expenditure or electioneering communication; 283 284 provided, that such contributions shall be in excess of \$5,000 reportable under this chapter during the 12-month period before the date of the advertisement or communication. If no such 285 286 contribution is received by the entity making an independent expenditure or electioneering communication, then the advertisement or communication may exclude such a statement.

SECTION 21. Section 19 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

290 Section 19. (a) Candidates for nomination or election to the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer and receiver general, auditor, governor's council, district attorney, clerk of court, register of probate, registrar of deeds, county commissioner, county treasurer, and sheriff, mayor or, city council or alderman in 294 a city with a total population, as determined by the most recent decennial federal census, of 295 seventy five thousand or more persons and the treasurer of each state committee referred to in 296 section one of chapter fifty-two, and the treasurer of the nonelected political committee 297 authorized by any of the aforesaid candidates, and the treasurers of political action committees that file with the director, other than independent expenditure PACs, shall forthwith, upon the 298 organization of said political committee, or upon becoming a candidate in accordance with the provision of clauses (1) and (2) of the definition of candidate in section one, designate a financial 301 institution as a depository for the campaign funds of such candidate or political committee. The 302 financial institution so designated shall be a national bank, federal savings bank, federal savings and loan association or federal credit union, if such bank, association or credit union is 303 304 authorized to transact business and has its main office or a branch office in the commonwealth; 305 or a trust company, credit union, co-operative bank or savings bank, if such company, credit union or bank is organized and exists under the laws of the commonwealth or any other state of 306 307 the United States or is otherwise authorized to transact business in the commonwealth and has its 308 main office or a branch office in the commonwealth. Each such candidate, and the treasurer of 309 each such political committee shall file with the director, no later than the third business day 310 following the designation of such depository, a certificate of appointment containing the name of 311 the financial institution so designated, and the name of the candidate or political committee, and 312 shall authorize the financial institution so designated to submit the reports required by subsection 313 (d). Such certificate of appointment, reflecting the financial institution's agreement to comply with the requirements of this section, must also be signed by an authorized employee of the financial institution. 315

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- (b) Every candidate and the treasurer of every committee required to designate a 317 depository shall deposit contributions in the form received within seven days of receipt. Any candidate or treasurer required to designate a depository shall file with the director, by the fifth and twentieth day of each month, the following information: (1) a list of all contributions of 319 320 more than fifty dollars deposited as of the first or fifteenth day of the month, and since the last such statement, including the names and addresses alphabetically, (2) for each person who has made a contribution in an amount or value of two hundred dollars or more in any calendar year, 323 the occupation and employer of the contributor, and such information for each contribution of 324 less than two hundred dollars, if the aggregate of all contributions received from such contributor within any one calendar year is two hundred dollars or more, and (3) a summary of all contributions of fifty dollars or less deposited during the reporting period that are not itemized in the report.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all payments for campaign purposes 329 made by or for the benefit of a candidate or by the treasurer of a committee which are in excess 330 of one hundred dollars shall be made only from funds on deposit in said depository through 331 checks drawn on such depository and indicating that such checks are drawn on the campaign 332 account of the candidate or the political committee involved. All checks drawn on such campaign accounts shall be payable either to the order of a named payee not the candidate or treasurer or, if for no more than fifty one hundred dollars, may be payable to the candidate or treasurer. The "memo" line of the check shall be used by the committee issuing the check to indicate the specific purpose of the expenditure.

A candidate or treasurer of a political committee required to designate a depository may 338 make expenditures by wire transfer or other electronic means for broadcast, cablecast or other media services and for payroll services made in connection with employee deductions and withholdings. Expenditures may also be made by credit or debit card, provided that candidates or treasurers making such expenditures shall ensure that the date, amount, and specific purpose of each expenditure is disclosed in accordance with regulations to be issued by the director.

(d) The cashier or treasurer of the bank, selected by any candidate or committee as above provided, shall file with the director by the fifth day and twentieth day of each month, the following information: a statement of the balance as of the preceding first day or fifteenth day of 346 the month, together with a summary of all credits to the account since the last such statement and a list of all the debits to the account since the last such statement. The bank shall also report, to 348 the extent such information is available, the names and addresses of the payees and the amount of each check, and the purposes for which the money was paid as thereon indicated.

- (e) Such accounts shall remain in existence until the election and so long thereafter as a 351 candidate or political committee has unpaid obligations still outstanding, and candidates and 352 treasurers required to file reports under this section shall continue to file year-end campaign 353 finance reports in accordance with section 18 every year the committee remains in existence.
- 354 (f) Each committee required to designate a depository on behalf of a candidate that files 355 with the director in accordance with this section and which receives and deposits a contribution of \$500 or more after the eighteenth day but more than 72 hours before the date of a special, 357 preliminary, primary or general election shall file a report to disclose the information required by 358 this section within 72 hours of depositing such contribution. In addition, each state committee 359 referred to in section 1 of chapter 52 required to designate a depository pursuant to this section and which receives a contribution of \$500 or more after the eighteenth day, but more than 24 361 hours, before the date of a special, preliminary, primary or general election, shall file a report to 362 disclose the information required by this section, within 72 hours of depositing such 363 contribution.

Any candidate or political committee which fails to file any report required by this section shall be assessed, and shall pay to the state treasurer, a penalty not greater than ten dollars for each day such candidate or political committee has not filed such report.

Violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six months or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

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SECTION 22. Section 22 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the fifth paragraph, at line 44:- A person, corporation, association, organization, or group required to file a report under this section is also subject to subvendor disclosure requirements under section 18D.

SECTION 23. Section 27 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 27. The director shall make available to city and town clerks a summary of this chapter and forms approved by him and by the attorney general, suitable for the submission of such statements and reports as are required by this chapter. The city and town clerk shall transmit forms to all candidates for nomination or election to city or town office, who are known to him, and to all political committees required to file with him.

- The director shall make available to all candidates and political committees required to file with him forms for filing and a summary of this chapter.
- SECTION 24. Sections 9 and 10 shall take effect January 1, 2015.