

2018 -- H 7758

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LC004794  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
EXPENDITURES REPORTING

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Newberry, Mendonca, Filippi, and  
Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-25-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-25 entitled "Rhode  
2 Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting" is hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 **17-25-7. Contents of reports to be filed by treasurers of candidates and committees..**

5 (a) Each campaign treasurer of a candidate, each state and municipal committee of a  
6 political party, and each political action committee shall keep accurate records and make a full  
7 report, upon a form prescribed by the board of elections, of all contributions received, and  
8 expenditures made, by it in excess of a total of one hundred dollars (\$100) from any one source  
9 within a calendar year, in furtherance of the nomination, election, or defeat of any candidate or  
10 the approval or rejection of any question submitted to the voters, or at any financial town  
11 meeting, financial town referendum, or other election at which amendments to a city or town  
12 charter are proposed, during the period from the date of the last report, or in the case of the initial  
13 report, beginning on the date of the appointment of the campaign treasurer for state and municipal  
14 committees and political action committees and on the date a person becomes a "candidate" as  
15 defined in § 17-25-3(2) for individual candidates. The report shall contain the name, address, and  
16 place of employment of each person or source from whom the contributions and expenditures in  
17 excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) were received or made and the amount contributed or  
18 expended by each person or source. The report shall be filed with the board of elections on the

1 dates designated in § 17-25-11. The campaign treasurer of the candidate or committee reporting  
2 shall certify to the correctness of each report. Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in  
3 this title, this subsection shall apply to any person or entity advocating the approval or rejection  
4 of any question presented to voters at any financial town meeting, financial town referendum, or  
5 other election at which amendments to a city or town charter are proposed, which shall file  
6 reports of contributions or expenditures in accordance with the filing schedule established by §  
7 17-25-11 if the total of the money so expended exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100) in a calendar  
8 year. As used in this subsection, the word "entity" means any political action committee, political  
9 party committee, authorized campaign committee of a candidate or officer holder, corporation,  
10 whether for profit, not-for-profit, or exempt nonprofit pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) of the  
11 Internal Revenue Code, domestic corporation or foreign corporation, as defined in § 7-1.2-106,  
12 financial institution, cooperative, association, receivership, partnership, committee, union,  
13 charity, trust, holding company, firm, joint stock company, public utility, sole proprietorship,  
14 limited partnership, or any other entity recognized by the laws of the United States and/or the  
15 state of Rhode Island.

16 (b) Each state and municipal committee of a political party shall also file with the board  
17 of elections, not later than March 1 of each year, an annual report setting forth in the aggregate all  
18 contributions received and all expenditures made during the previous calendar year, whether or  
19 not these expenditures were made, incurred, or authorized in furtherance of the election or defeat  
20 of any candidate. The treasurer of the committee or organization reporting shall certify to the  
21 correctness of each report.

22 (c) Each campaign treasurer of a candidate, as defined in § 17-25-3(2), shall file with the  
23 board of elections a copy of every written agreement that is entered into by the candidate and a  
24 committee of a political party, where the agreement pertains to campaign contributions or  
25 expenditures. A copy of the agreement shall be filed within five (5) business days of execution.  
26 The board of elections shall review the agreement to determine if it is in compliance with all  
27 applicable state campaign finance laws.

28 ~~(e)~~(d) Any report filed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall include  
29 contributions received from any "testimonial affair", as defined in § 17-25-3, held since the date  
30 of the most recent report filed.

31 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to any written  
32 agreement entered during the current election cycle and thereafter.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would require campaign treasurers to file with the board of elections a copy of  
2 every written agreement that is entered into by a candidate and a committee of a political party,  
3 where the agreement pertains to campaign contributions or expenditures, within five (5) business  
4 days of the agreement being signed. The board of elections would review the agreement to  
5 determine if it is in compliance with all applicable state campaign finance laws.

6           This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to any written agreement  
7 entered during the current election cycle and thereafter.

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