

1 S.20

2 Introduced by Senator White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Elections; campaign finance

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to revise comprehensively Vermont's
7 campaign finance laws.

8 An act relating to financing campaigns for elected office

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 The general assembly finds that:

12 (1) Large campaign contributions reduce public confidence in the
13 electoral process and increase the risk and the appearance that candidates and
14 elected officials will not act in the best interests of all Vermont citizens.

15 (2) Some candidates and elected officials, particularly when time is
16 limited, may respond and give access to contributors who make large
17 contributions in preference to those who make small or no contributions.

1 (3) In Vermont, contributions greater than the amounts specified in this
2 act are considered by the general assembly, candidates, and elected officials to
3 be large contributions.

4 (4) In Vermont, contributions in the amounts permitted in this act
5 adequately allow contributors to express their opinions, levels of support, and
6 affiliations with respect to candidates, political committees, and political
7 parties.

8 (5) In Vermont, candidates can raise sufficient monies to fund effective
9 campaigns from contributions no larger than the amounts specified in this act.

10 (6) In Vermont, lower contribution limits have not prevented
11 challengers from maintaining robust and competitive campaigns.

12 (7) Limiting large contributions will encourage direct and small group
13 contact between candidates and the electorate and will encourage the personal
14 involvement of a larger number of citizens in campaigns, both of which are
15 crucial to public confidence and the robust debate of issues.

16 (8) In Vermont, campaign expenditures by persons who are not
17 candidates have been increasing, and public confidence is eroded when
18 unidentified expenditures are made, particularly during the final days of a
19 campaign.

1 (9) Identification of persons who publish political advertisements and
2 electioneering communications assists in enforcement of the campaign finance
3 limitations established by this act.

4 (10) Aggregate contribution limitations are necessary to limit the
5 influence of a single source, political committee, or political party in an
6 election.

7 (11) There is an extensive record supporting the need for the regulation
8 of campaign finance in Vermont that was compiled during the consideration of
9 No. 64 of the Acts of 1997, and that was considered by the courts during the
10 litigation of Landell v. Sorrell, 118 F.Supp. 459 (D.Vt. 2000), aff'd in part and
11 vacated in part, 382 F.3d 91 (2d Cir. 2004), rev'd and remanded sub nom.
12 Randall v. Sorrell, 126 S. Ct. 2479 (2006), and during the general assembly's
13 consideration of S.164 during the 2007 legislative session and S.278 during the
14 2008 legislative session.

15 (12) This act is necessary in order to implement more fully the
16 provisions of Article 8 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the State of Vermont,
17 which declares "That all elections ought to be free and without corruption, and
18 that all voters, having a sufficient, evident, common interest with, and
19 attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers, and be elected into
20 office, agreeably to the regulations made in this constitution."

1 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2801 is amended to read:

2 § 2801. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Candidate" means an individual who has taken affirmative action to
5 become a candidate for state, county, local₂ or legislative office in a primary,
6 special, general₂ or local election. An affirmative action shall include one or
7 more of the following:

8 (A) accepting contributions or making expenditures totaling \$500.00
9 or more; or

10 (B) filing the requisite petition for nomination under this title or
11 being nominated by primary or caucus; or

12 (C) announcing that he or she seeks an elected position as a state,
13 county₂ or local officer or a position as representative or senator in the general
14 assembly.

15 (2) "Clearly identified," with respect to a candidate, means that:

16 (A) The name of the candidate appears;

17 (B) A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or

18 (C) The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous
19 reference.

20 (3) "Contribution" means a payment, distribution, advance, deposit,
21 loan₂ or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised to be paid ~~to a~~

1 ~~person~~ for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on a
2 public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates in any
3 election, ~~but shall not include services provided without compensation by~~
4 ~~individuals volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political~~
5 ~~committee or political party.~~ For purposes of this chapter, “contribution” shall
6 not include ~~a personal loan from a lending institution.~~ any of the following:

7 (A) a personal loan of money to a candidate from a lending
8 institution made in the ordinary course of business;

9 (B) services provided without compensation by individuals
10 volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or
11 political party;

12 (C) unreimbursed travel expenses paid for by an individual who
13 volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these
14 expenses does not exceed \$1,000.00 per election;

15 (D) unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses paid for by the
16 candidate or the candidate’s spouse or civil union partner;

17 (E) the payment by a political party of the costs of preparation,
18 display, or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate listing;

19 (F) documents, in printed or electronic form, including party
20 platforms, single copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the
21 requirements of this title, lists of registered voters and voter identification

1 information created, obtained, or maintained by a political party for the general
2 purpose of party building and provided to a candidate who is a member of that
3 party or to another political party;

4 (G) compensation paid by a political party to its employees whose
5 job responsibilities are not for the specific and exclusive benefit of a single
6 candidate in any election;

7 (H) campaign training sessions provided to three or more candidates;

8 (I) costs paid for by a political party in connection with a campaign
9 event at which three or more candidates are present;

10 (J) the use of offices, telephones, computers, and similar equipment;

11 (K) activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to
12 register to vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention or
13 depict a clearly identified candidate;

14 (L) compensation paid by a political party to its employees or
15 consultants for the purpose of providing assistance to another political party.

16 ~~(3)~~(4) “Expenditure” means a payment, disbursement, distribution,
17 advance, deposit, loan, or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised
18 to be paid, for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on
19 a public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates. For the
20 purposes of this chapter, “expenditure” shall not include any of the following:

1 (A) a personal loan of money to a candidate from a lending
2 institution made in the ordinary course of business;

3 (B) services provided without compensation by individuals
4 volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or
5 political party;

6 (C) unreimbursed travel expenses paid for by an individual who
7 volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these
8 expenses does not exceed \$1,000.00 per election;

9 (D) unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses paid for by the
10 candidate or the candidate's spouse or civil union partner.

11 (5) "Party candidate listing" means any communication by a political
12 party that:

13 (A) lists the names of at least three candidates for election to public
14 office;

15 (B) is distributed through public advertising such as broadcast
16 stations, cable television, newspapers and similar media, or through direct
17 mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible sites on the Internet, or
18 personal delivery;

19 (C) treats all candidates in the communication in a substantially
20 similar manner; and

21 (D) is limited to:

1 (i) the identification of each candidate, with which pictures may
2 be used;

3 (ii) the offices sought;

4 (iii) the offices currently held by the candidates;

5 (iv) the party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement
6 about the party or the candidates' positions, philosophy, goals,
7 accomplishments, or biographies;

8 (v) encouragement to vote for the candidates identified; and

9 (vi) information about voting, such as voting hours and locations.

10 ~~(4)~~(6) "Political committee" or "political action committee" means any
11 formal or informal committee of two or more individuals, or a corporation,
12 labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a
13 political party, which receives contributions of more than \$500.00 and makes
14 expenditures of more than \$500.00 in any one calendar year for the purpose of
15 supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or
16 advocating a position on a public question in any election or affecting the
17 outcome of an election.

18 ~~(5)~~(7) "Political party" means a political party organized under chapter
19 45 of this title ~~or~~ and any committee established, financed, maintained, or
20 controlled by the party, including any subsidiary, branch, or local unit thereof
21 ~~and including national or regional affiliates of the party~~ and shall be considered

1 a single, unified political party. The national affiliate of the political party
2 shall be considered a separate political party.

3 ~~(6)~~(8) “Single source” means an individual, partnership, corporation,
4 association, labor organization, or any other organization or group of persons
5 which is not a political committee or political party.

6 ~~(7)~~(9) “Election” means the procedure whereby the voters of this state or
7 any of its political subdivisions ~~select~~ or caucus selects a person to be a
8 candidate for public office or fill a public office, or to act on public questions
9 including voting on constitutional amendments. Each primary, general,
10 special, run-off, or local election shall constitute a separate election.

11 ~~(8)~~(10) “Public question” means an issue that is before the voters for a
12 binding decision.

13 ~~(9)~~(11) “Two-year general election cycle” means the 24-month period
14 that begins 38 days after a general election. ~~Expenditures related to a previous~~
15 ~~campaign and contributions to retire a debt of a previous campaign shall be~~
16 ~~attributed to the earlier campaign cycle.~~

17 ~~(10)~~(12) “Full name” means an individual’s full first name, middle name
18 or initial, if any, and full legal last name, making the identity of the person who
19 made the contribution apparent by unambiguous reference.

1 ~~(11)~~(13) “Telephone bank” means more than 500 telephone calls of an
2 identical or substantially similar nature that are made to the general public
3 within any 30-day period.

4 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2801a is amended to read:

5 § 2801a. EXCEPTIONS

6 The definitions of “contribution,” “expenditure,” and “electioneering
7 communication” shall not apply to:

8 (1) any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the
9 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical
10 publication which has not been paid for, or such facilities are not owned or
11 controlled, by any political party, committee, or candidate; and

12 (2) any communication distributed through a public access television
13 station if the communication complies with the laws and rules governing the
14 station, and all candidates in the race have an equal opportunity to promote
15 their candidacies through the station.

16 Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2803 is amended to read:

17 § 2803. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; FORMS; FILING

18 (a) The secretary of state shall prescribe and provide a uniform reporting
19 form for all campaign finance reports. The reporting form shall be designed to
20 show the following information:

1 ~~from a single source, political committee or political party in any two-year~~
2 ~~general election cycle.~~

3 ~~(b)(d)~~ A single source, ~~political committee or political party~~ shall not
4 contribute more to a candidate, ~~political committee or political party than the~~
5 ~~candidate, political committee or political party is permitted to accept under~~
6 ~~subsection (a) of this section~~ than \$20,000.00 to all candidates in any two-year
7 general election cycle. A single source shall not contribute more than
8 \$20,000.00 to all political committees and political parties in any two-year
9 general election cycle.

10 ~~(e)(e)~~ A candidate, ~~political party or political committee~~ shall not accept,
11 from a political party contributions totaling more than the following amounts
12 in any two-year general election cycle, ~~more than 25 percent of total~~
13 ~~contributions from contributors who are not residents of the state of Vermont~~
14 ~~or from political committees or parties not organized in the state of Vermont;~~

15 (1) For the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
16 state treasurer, auditor of accounts, or attorney general, \$30,000.00;

17 (2) For the office of state senator or county office, \$2,000.00;

18 (3) For the office of state representative or local office, \$1,000.00.

19 (f) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not
20 contribute more to a candidate, political committee, or political party than the

1 candidate, political committee, or political party is permitted to accept under
2 subsections (a) through (c) and (e) of this section.

3 ~~(d)~~(g) A candidate shall not accept a monetary contribution in excess of
4 \$50.00 unless made by check, credit or debit card, or other electronic transfer.

5 ~~(e)~~(h) A candidate, political party, or political committee shall not
6 knowingly accept a contribution which is not directly from the contributor, but
7 was transferred to the contributor by another person for the purpose of
8 transferring the same to the candidate, or otherwise circumventing the
9 provisions of this chapter. It shall be a violation of this chapter for a person to
10 make a contribution with the explicit or implicit understanding that the
11 contribution will be transferred in violation of this subsection.

12 ~~(f)~~(i) This section shall not be interpreted to limit the amount a candidate or
13 his or her immediate family may contribute to his or her own campaign. For
14 purposes of this subsection, "immediate family" means ~~individuals related to~~
15 ~~the candidate in the first, second or third degree of consanguinity~~ a candidate's
16 spouse or civil union partner, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sister,
17 brother, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild, stepgrandchild, stepsister,
18 stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,
19 son-in-law, daughter-in-law, legal guardian, or former legal guardian.

1 ~~(g)~~(j) The limitations on contributions established by this section shall not
2 apply to contributions made for the purpose of advocating a position on a
3 public question, including a constitutional amendment.

4 ~~(h)~~(k) For purposes of this section, the term “candidate” includes the
5 candidate’s political committee.

6 (l) The contribution limitations contained in this section shall be adjusted
7 for inflation by increasing them based on the Consumer Price Index. Increases
8 shall be rounded up to the nearest \$10.00. Increases shall be effective for the
9 first two-year general election cycle beginning after the general election held in
10 2010. On or before July 1, 2011, the secretary of state shall calculate and
11 publish the amount of each limitation that will apply to the election cycle in
12 which July 1, 2011 falls. On July 1 of each subsequent odd-numbered year,
13 the secretary shall publish the amount of each limitation for the election cycle
14 in which that publication falls.

15 (m) Contributions accepted by candidates shall be treated as follows:

16 (1) A candidate who accepts a contribution prior to the date of the
17 primary election may designate the contribution or portion of the contribution
18 as either a primary or general election contribution. Once designated, a
19 general election contribution accepted prior to the primary election shall be
20 accounted for separately.

1 (2) A contribution accepted by a candidate after the date of the primary
2 election shall be a general election contribution. A candidate may designate a
3 contribution or portion of the contribution accepted after the date of the
4 primary election as a primary election contribution only for the purpose of
5 retiring debt incurred for the primary election.

6 (3) Contributions that were accepted prior to the primary election may
7 be used for the general election if all debt incurred for the primary election has
8 been retired.

9 (4) Expenditures related to a previous two-year general election cycle
10 and contributions to retire a debt of a previous two-year general election cycle
11 shall be attributed to the earlier two-year general election cycle.

12 (n) The following shall apply to an independent candidate who certifies to
13 the secretary of state that he or she will not accept contributions from any
14 political party:

15 (1) The candidate may accept contributions from one political
16 committee, designated by the candidate, up to the limitations set forth in
17 subsection (e) of this section for political party contributions; and

18 (2) For the purposes of this chapter, "contribution" shall not include:

19 (A) Compensation paid by one political committee, designated by the
20 candidate, to its employees;

1 (B) Costs paid by one political committee, designated by the
2 candidate, in connection with a campaign event.

3 (o) A candidate accepts a contribution when the contribution is deposited in
4 the candidate's campaign account.

5 Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2805b is added to read:

6 § 2805b. LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS; POLITICAL

7 COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

8 (a) In any two-year general election cycle:

9 (1) A political committee, other than a political committee of a
10 candidate, shall not accept contributions totaling more than \$2,000.00 from a
11 single source, political committee, or political party.

12 (2) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than
13 \$2,000.00 from a single source or political committee.

14 (3) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than
15 \$30,000.00 from another political party.

16 (b) The contribution limitations contained in this section shall be adjusted
17 for inflation by increasing them based on the Consumer Price Index. Increases
18 shall be rounded up to the nearest \$10.00. Increases shall be effective for the
19 first two-year general election cycle beginning after the general election held in
20 2010. On or before July 1, 2011, the secretary of state shall calculate and
21 publish the amount of each limitation that will apply to the election cycle in

1 which July 1, 2011 falls. On July 1 of each subsequent odd-numbered year,
2 the secretary shall publish the amount of each limitation for the election cycle
3 in which that publication falls.

4 (c) In any two-year general election cycle:

5 (1) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not
6 contribute more than \$2,000.00 to a political committee, other than a political
7 committee of a candidate.

8 (2) A single source or political committee shall not contribute more than
9 \$2,000.00 to a political party.

10 (3) A political party shall not contribute more than \$30,000.00 to
11 another political party.

12 (d) The limitations on contributions established by this section shall not
13 apply to contributions made for the purpose of advocating a position on a
14 public question, including a constitutional amendment.

15 Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2806(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) A person who knowingly and intentionally violates a provision of
17 ~~subchapters 2 through 4~~ subchapter 2, 3, 4, or 8 of this chapter shall be fined
18 not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than six months or both. If
19 the person is not a natural person, each individual responsible for knowingly
20 and intentionally authorizing a violation shall be liable under this subsection.

1 Sec. 8. 17 V.S.A. § 2809 is amended to read:

2 § 2809. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ~~RELATED~~ COORDINATED
3 EXPENDITURES

4 (a) A ~~related~~ coordinated campaign expenditure made on a candidate's
5 behalf shall be considered a contribution to the candidate on whose behalf it
6 was made.

7 (b) A ~~related~~ coordinated campaign expenditure made on a candidate's
8 behalf shall be considered an expenditure by the candidate on whose behalf it
9 was made. However, if the expenditure did not exceed \$50.00, the expenditure
10 shall not be considered an expenditure by the candidate on whose behalf it was
11 made.

12 (c) For the purposes of this section, a "~~related~~ coordinated campaign
13 expenditure made on the candidate's behalf" means any expenditure ~~intended~~
14 ~~to promote the election of a specific candidate or group of candidates, or the~~
15 ~~defeat of an opposing candidate or group of candidates, if intentionally~~
16 ~~facilitated by, solicited by or approved by the candidate or the candidate's~~
17 ~~political committee~~ made by a single source, political committee, or political
18 party in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or
19 suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's political committee, or an agent,
20 unless otherwise exempt under subdivision 2801(3) or (4) or section 2801a of
21 this title.

1 ~~(d) An expenditure made by a political party or by a political committee~~
2 ~~that recruits or endorses candidates, that primarily benefits six or fewer~~
3 ~~candidates who are associated with the political party or political committee~~
4 ~~making the expenditure, is presumed to be a related expenditure made on~~
5 ~~behalf of those candidates. An expenditure made by a political party or by a~~
6 ~~political committee that recruits or endorses candidates, that substantially~~
7 ~~benefits more than six candidates and facilitates party or political committee~~
8 ~~functions, voter turnout, platform promotion or organizational capacity shall~~
9 ~~not be presumed to be a related expenditure made on a candidate's behalf. In~~
10 ~~addition, an expenditure shall not be considered a "related campaign~~
11 ~~expenditure made on the candidate's behalf" if all of the following apply:~~

12 ~~(1) The expenditures were made in connection with a campaign event~~
13 ~~whose purpose was to provide a group of voters with the opportunity to meet~~
14 ~~the candidate personally.~~

15 ~~(2) The expenditures were made only for refreshments and related~~
16 ~~supplies that were consumed at that event.~~

17 ~~(3) The amount of the expenditures for the event was less than \$100.00.~~

18 For the purposes of this section, a "coordinated campaign expenditure made
19 on the candidate's behalf" does not mean:

20 (1) the cost of invitations and postage and of food and beverages
21 voluntarily provided by an individual to provide an opportunity for a group of

1 voters to meet a candidate, if the cumulative value of these activities by the
2 individual on behalf of any candidate does not exceed \$500.00 per election;

3 (2) the sale of any food or beverage by a vendor at a charge less than the
4 normal comparable charge, for use at a campaign event providing an
5 opportunity for a group of voters to meet a candidate, if the charge to the
6 candidate is at least equal to the cost of the food or beverages to the vendor and
7 if the cumulative value of the food or beverages does not exceed \$500.00 per
8 election; or

9 (3) amounts expended by a membership organization in compiling and
10 disseminating a nonpartisan voter guide that includes reports of votes on
11 legislation by, or answers to written questions directed to, all or substantially
12 all of the candidates seeking election to the general assembly or to statewide
13 office, about the candidate's position on issues of concern to the organization,
14 if all of the following apply:

15 (A) the organization was not created for the major purpose of
16 influencing elections;

17 (B) the organization identifies itself as the sponsor of the
18 communication, and accepts no funding from a candidate, political committee,
19 or political party to defray the costs of the voter guide;

20 (C) the voter guide does not contain a phrase such as "vote for,"
21 "reelect," "support," "cast your ballot for," "(name of candidate) for Senate,"

1 “(name of candidate) in (year),” “vote against,” “defeat,” or “reject,” or
2 otherwise is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal
3 to vote for or against a candidate or candidates;

4 (D) the voter guide does not contain photographs or messages
5 provided by a candidate or his or her political committee or agents other than
6 responses to a general questionnaire submitted to all candidates.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 9. 17 V.S.A. § 2891 is amended to read:

9 § 2891. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in this chapter, “electioneering communication”:

11 (1) means any communication, including communications published in
12 any newspaper or periodical or broadcast on radio or television or over any
13 public address system, placed on any billboards, outdoor facilities, buttons, or
14 printed material attached to motor vehicles, window displays, posters, cards,
15 pamphlets, leaflets, flyers, or other circulars, or in any direct mailing, robotic
16 phone calls, or mass e-mails that refers to a clearly identified candidate for
17 office and that promotes or supports a candidate for that office, or attacks or
18 opposes a candidate for that office, regardless of whether the communication
19 expressly advocates a vote for or against a candidate.

1 spoken manner, an audio statement that sets forth the following information:
2 the name of the speaker, the name of the person who paid for the
3 communication, and a statement that the speaker approves of the content of the
4 communication. Moreover, for electioneering communications transmitted
5 through television, the person, candidate, or representative of the political
6 committee or party that makes the expenditure for an electioneering
7 communication shall appear in a full-screen, unobscured view at the end of the
8 televised electioneering communication for at least four seconds. For
9 communications using media other than radio or television, the name, mailing
10 address, and Internet address of the person or political committee shall appear
11 prominently such that a reasonable person would clearly understand by whom
12 the expenditure has been made.

13 Sec. 12. 17 V.S.A. § 2893 is amended to read:

14 § 2893. NOTICE OF EXPENDITURE

15 (a) For purposes of this section, “mass media activities” includes television
16 commercials, radio commercials, mass mailings, mass electronic or digital
17 communications, literature drops, newspaper and periodical advertisements,
18 robotic phone calls, and telephone banks which include the name or likeness of
19 a clearly identified candidate for office.

20 (b) In addition to any other reports required to be filed under this chapter, a
21 person, political committee, party, or candidate who makes expenditures for

1 any one mass media activity totaling \$500.00 or more within 30 days ~~of~~ before
2 a primary or general election shall, for each activity, file a mass media report
3 by e-mail with the secretary of state and send a copy of the mass media
4 report by e-mail to each candidate whose name or likeness is included in the
5 activity within ~~24~~ 12 hours of the expenditure or activity, whichever occurs
6 first. For the purposes of this section, a person, political committee, party, or
7 candidate shall be treated as having made an expenditure if the person has
8 executed a contract to make the expenditure. The report shall identify the
9 person, political committee, party, or candidate who made the expenditure with
10 the name of the candidate involved in the activity and any other information
11 relating to the expenditure that is required to be disclosed under the provisions
12 of subsections 2803(a) and (b) of this title. If the activity occurs within 30
13 days before the election and the expenditure was previously reported, an
14 additional report shall be required under this section. Specifically, the person,
15 political committee, party, or candidate shall file a mass media report by by
16 e-mail with the secretary of state and send a copy of the mass media report by
17 by e-mail to each candidate whose name or likeness is included in the activity
18 within 12 hours of the activity.

1 Sec. 13. EVALUATION OF 2012 PRIMARY AND GENERAL
2 ELECTIONS

3 The house and senate committees on government operations shall evaluate
4 the 2012 primary and general elections to determine whether the major
5 provisions of this act are accomplishing their intended purposes.

6 Sec. 14. REPEAL

7 17 V.S.A. § 2805a (campaign expenditure limitations) is repealed.

8 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.