

2013 -- H 5385

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LC00984
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS - EXPENDITURES
REPORTING

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Lombardi, O'Neill, Dickinson, and Malik

Date Introduced: February 12, 2013

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-25-10 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 **17-25-10. Lawful methods of contributing to support of candidates -- Reporting --**

5 **Disposition of anonymous contributions.** -- (a) No contribution shall be made or received, and
6 no expenditures shall be directly made or incurred, to support or defeat a candidate except
7 through:

8 (1) The duly appointed campaign treasurer, or deputy campaign treasurers, of the
9 candidates;

10 (2) The duly appointed campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurers of a political
11 party committee;

12 (3) The duly appointed campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer of a political
13 action committee.

14 (b) It shall be lawful for any person, not otherwise prohibited by law and not acting in
15 concert with any other person or group, to expend personally from that person's own funds a sum
16 which is not to be repaid to him or her for any purpose not prohibited by law to support or defeat
17 a candidate; provided, that any person making the expenditure shall be required to report all of his
18 or her expenditures and expenses, if the total of the money so expended exceeds one hundred

1 dollars (\$100) within a calendar year, to the board of elections within seven (7) days of making
2 the expenditure and to the campaign treasurer of the candidate or political party committee on
3 whose behalf the expenditure or contribution was made, or to his or her deputy, within seven (7)
4 days of making the expenditure, who shall cause the expenditures and expenses to be included in
5 his or her reports to the board of elections. Whether a person is "acting in concert with any other
6 person or group" for the purposes of this subsection shall be determined by application of the
7 standards set forth in section 17-25-23.

8 (c) Any anonymous contribution received by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign
9 treasurer shall not be used or expended, but shall be returned to the donor, if the donor's identity
10 can be ascertained; if not, the contribution shall escheat to the state.

11 (d) All individuals, corporations or other businesses hired by any department of the state
12 shall be required to publically disclose all political contributions made to any state elected official
13 for the past four (4) years prior to their hiring, including, without limitation, their sponsorship of a
14 fundraiser for any elected official not presently required to report. This disclosure shall be filed
15 with the ethics commission.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would make several changes to the rules governing the reporting of campaign
2 contributions, increasing the period of reporting prior to the donor's hire and further defining
3 what contributions are covered.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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