2015 -- H 6290

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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 political

6   party, and each political action committee shall keep accurate records and make a full report,

7   upon a form prescribed by the board of elections, of all contributions received and expenditures

8   made by it in excess of a total of one hundred dollars ($100) from any one source within a

9   calendar year, in furtherance of the nomination, election, or defeat of any candidate or the

10   approval or rejection of any question submitted to the voters, or at any financial town meeting,

11   financial town referendum, or other election at which amendments to a city or town charter are

12   proposed, during the period from the date of the last report, or in the case of the initial report,

13   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

19   dates designated in § 17-25-11. The campaign treasurer of the candidate, or committee reporting,

1 shall certify to the correctness of each report. This subsection shall apply to any entity advocating

2 the approval or rejection of any question presented to voters at any financial town meeting, which

3 shall file reports of contributions or expenditures every seven (7) days if the total of the money so

4 expended exceeds one hundred dollars ($100) in a calendar year notwithstanding any other

5 provisions contained in this title. As used in this subsection, the word "entity" shall mean any

6 business entity, political action committee, person and exempt nonprofit, as defined in § 17-25-3.

7 (b) Each state and municipal committee of a political party shall also file with the board

8 of elections, not later than March 1 of each year, an annual report setting forth in the aggregate all

9 contributions received and all expenditures made during the previous calendar year, whether or

10 not these expenditures were made, incurred, or authorized in furtherance of the election or defeat

11 of any candidate. The treasurer of the committee or organization reporting shall certify to the

12 correctness of each report.

13 (c) Any report filed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall include contributions

14 received from any "testimonial affair", as defined in § 17-25-3, held since the date of the most

15 recent report filed.

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

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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1   This act would clarify the definition of the term "entity" that advocates for the approval

2   or question presented to voters at a financial town meeting, to include business entities, political

3   action committees, persons and exempt nonprofits.

4   This act would take effect upon passage.

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