

2017 -- H 5707

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LC001848
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND
EXPENDITURES REPORTING

Introduced By: Representatives Knight, McEntee, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: March 01, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

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.**

6 (a) No contribution shall be made or received, and no expenditures shall be directly made
7 or incurred, to support or defeat a candidate except through:

8 (1) The candidate or duly appointed campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer of
9 the candidate;

10 (2) The duly appointed campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer 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 ~~that is not to be repaid to him or her for any purpose not prohibited by law to support or defeat a~~
17 ~~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. The treasurer or his or her deputy shall cause the expenditures~~
5 ~~and expenses to be included in his or her reports to the board of elections. Whether a person is~~
6 ~~"acting in concert with any other person or group" for the purposes of this subsection shall be~~
7 ~~determined by application of the standards set forth in § 17-25-23.~~

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

11 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 eliminate the reporting requirements imposed on persons and campaign
2 treasurers for expenditures made to support or defeat a candidate by persons or groups not acting
3 in concert with the candidate's campaign, in light of reporting requirements contained in §17-
4 25.3-1.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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