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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: Senator Erin P. Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: April 25, 2017

Referred To: Senate 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.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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