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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND
EXPENDITURES REPORTING

Introduced By: Senators LaMountain, Dimitri, Burke, Felag, McKenney, and Bissailon

Date Introduced: March 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-25-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-25 entitled "Rhode
2 Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-25-11. Dates for filing of reports by treasurers of candidates or of committees.**

4 (a) During the period between the appointment of the campaign treasurer for state and
5 municipal committees and political action committees, or in the case of an individual the date on
6 which the individual becomes a "declared or undeclared candidate" as defined in § 17-25-3(3),
7 except when the ninety-day (90) reporting period ends less than forty (40) days prior to an election
8 in which case the ninety-day (90) report shall be included as part of the report required to be filed
9 on the twenty-eighth (28th) day next preceding the day of the primary, general, or special election
10 pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, and the election, with respect to which contributions
11 are received or expenditures made by him or her in behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate, the
12 campaign treasurer of a candidate, a political party committee, or a political action committee shall
13 file a report containing an account of contributions received, and expenditures made, on behalf of,
14 or in opposition to, a candidate:

15 (1) At ninety-day (90) intervals commencing on the date on which the individual first
16 becomes a candidate, as defined in § 17-25-3(3);

17 (2) In a contested election, on the twenty-eighth (28th) and seventh (7th) days next
18 preceding the day of the primary, general, or special election; provided, that in the case of a primary

1 election for a special election where the twenty-eighth (28th) day next preceding the day of the
2 primary election occurs prior to the first day for filing declarations of candidacy pursuant to § 17-
3 14-1, the reports shall be due on the fourteenth (14th) and seventh (7th) days next preceding the
4 day of the primary election for the special election; and

5 (3) A final report on the twenty-eighth (28th) day following the election. The report shall
6 contain:

7 (i) The name and address and place of employment of each person from whom
8 contributions in excess of a total of two hundred dollars (\$200), within a calendar year were
9 received;

10 (ii) The amount contributed by each person;

11 (iii) The name and address of each person to whom expenditures in excess of two hundred
12 dollars (\$200), were made; and

13 (iv) The amount and purpose of each expenditure.

14 (b) Concurrent with the report filed on the twenty-eighth (28th) day following an election,
15 or at any time thereafter, the campaign treasurer of a candidate, or political party committee, or
16 political action committee, may certify to the board of elections that the campaign fund of the
17 candidate, political party committee, or political action committee having been instituted for the
18 purposes of the past election, has completed its business and been dissolved or, in the event that
19 the committee will continue its activities beyond the election, that its business regarding the past
20 election has been completed. The certification shall be accompanied by a final accounting of the
21 campaign fund, or of the transactions relating to the election, including the final disposition of any
22 balance remaining in the fund at the time of dissolution or the arrangements that have been made
23 for the discharge of any obligations remaining unpaid at the time of dissolution.

24 (c)(1) Once the campaign treasurer certifies that the campaign fund has completed its
25 business and been dissolved, no contribution that is intended to defray expenditures incurred on
26 behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate during the campaign can be accepted. Until the time that
27 the campaign treasurer certifies that the campaign fund has completed its business and been
28 dissolved, the treasurer shall file reports containing an account of contributions received and
29 expenditures made at ninety-day (90) intervals commencing with the next quarterly report
30 following the election; however, the time to file under this subsection shall be no later than the last
31 day of the month following the ninety-day (90) period, except when the last day of the month filing
32 deadline following the ninety-day (90) reporting period occurs less than twenty-eight (28) days
33 before an election, in which case the report shall be filed pursuant to the provisions of subsections
34 (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section. Provided, however, if the last day of the month falls on a weekend

1 or a holiday, the report shall be due on the following business day.

2 (2) In addition to the reports required pursuant to this section, a candidate or office holder
3 shall also file with the board of elections a paper copy of the account statement from the office
4 holder's campaign account, which account statement shall be the next account statement issued by
5 their financial institution after the filing of the fourth quarterly campaign expense report. The
6 account statement shall be submitted to the board within thirty (30) days of its receipt by the
7 candidate, officeholder, treasurer, or deputy treasurer. The account statement shall not be deemed
8 a public record pursuant to the provisions of chapter 2 of title 38. The board of elections, its agents,
9 and employees shall not publish, deliver, copy, or disclose, to any person or entity any account
10 statement or information contained therein for any candidate, former candidate, officeholder, party,
11 or political action committee. Provided, as to state and municipal political parties, the requirements
12 of this subsection (c)(2) shall apply to the annual report required pursuant to § 17-25-7.

13 (d)(1) There shall be no obligation to file the reports of expenditures required by this
14 section on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate if the total amount to be expended in behalf of
15 the candidacy by the candidate, by any political party committee, by any political action committee,
16 or by any person shall not in the aggregate exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

17 (2) However, even though the aggregate amount expended on behalf of the candidacy does
18 not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), reports must be made listing the source and amounts of
19 all contributions in excess of a total of two hundred dollars (\$200) from any one source, within a
20 calendar year. Even though the aggregate amount expended on behalf of the candidacy does not
21 exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and no contribution from any one source, within a calendar
22 year two hundred dollars (\$200), the report shall state the aggregate amount of all contributions
23 received. In addition, the report shall state the amount of aggregate contributions that were from
24 individuals, the amount from political action committees, and the amount from political party
25 committees.

26 (e) On or before the first date for filing contribution and expenditure reports, the campaign
27 treasurer may file a sworn statement that the treasurer will accept no contributions nor make
28 aggregate expenditures in excess of the minimum amounts for which a report is required by this
29 chapter. Thereafter, the campaign treasurer shall be excused from filing all the reports for that
30 campaign, other than the final report due on the twenty-eighth (28th) day following the election.

31 (f) A campaign treasurer must file a report containing an account of contributions received
32 and expenditures made at the ninety-day (90) intervals provided for in subsection (c) of this section
33 for any ninety-day (90) period in which the campaign received contributions in excess of a total of
34 two hundred dollars (\$200), within a calendar year from any one source and/or made expenditures

1 in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) within a calendar year; however, the time to file under
2 this subsection shall be no later than the last day of the month following the ninety-day (90) period,
3 except when the last day of the month filing deadline following the ninety-day (90) reporting period
4 occurs less than twenty-eight (28) days before an election, in which case the report shall be filed
5 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section. Provided, however, if the
6 last day of the month falls on a weekend or a holiday, the report shall be due on the following
7 business day.

8 (g)(1) The board of elections may, for good cause shown and upon the receipt of a written
9 or electronic request, grant a seven-day (7) extension for filing a report; provided, that the request
10 must be received no later than the date upon which the report is due to be filed.

11 (2) Any person or entity required to file reports with the board of elections pursuant to this
12 section and who or that has not filed the report by the required date, unless granted an extension
13 pursuant to subsection (g)(1) of this section, shall be fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); provided
14 that, in the case when a candidate has not filed the report by the required due date, the fine shall be
15 assessed against the candidate; and in all other instances, the fines shall be assessed against the
16 chairperson of the political action committee or political party committee required to file such
17 report. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section, the board of elections shall have the
18 authority to waive late filing fees for good cause shown.

19 (3) The board of elections shall send a notice of non-compliance, by certified mail, to any
20 person or entity who or that fails to file the reports required by this section. A person or entity who
21 or that is sent a notice of non-compliance and fails to file the required report within seven (7) days
22 of the receipt of the notice, shall be fined two dollars (\$2.00) per day from the day of receipt of the
23 notice of non-compliance until the day the report has been received by the state board; provided
24 that, in the case when a candidate has not filed the report by the required due date, the fine shall be
25 assessed against the candidate; and in all other instances, the fines shall be assessed against the
26 chairperson of the political action committee or political party committee required to file such
27 report. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section, the board of elections shall have the
28 authority to waive late filing fees for good cause shown.

29 (h) The maximum fine that may be assessed by the board of elections against a person or
30 entity required to file reports pursuant to this section shall be no greater than one thousand dollars
31 (\$1,000) for any one report which has not been filed or was filed later than the prescribed due date.
32 Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section, the board of elections shall have the authority
33 to waive late filing fines and suspend a delinquent filer's campaign finance account for good cause
34 shown.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND
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1 This act would allocate the assessment of fines for failure to provide reports to the board
2 of elections between the candidate and the chairperson of the political action committee or political
3 party committee based on the person or entity that is required to file such report, and would cap
4 fines assessed by the board to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any one report not filed.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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