

S.220

An act relating to the public financing of campaigns

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2981 is amended to read:

§ 2981. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

(4) “Vermont campaign finance qualification period” means one of the following periods within which a candidate who intends to seek Vermont campaign finance grants shall be required to obtain qualifying contributions, as chosen by the candidate:

(A) ~~the~~ The period beginning on or after February 15 of each even-numbered year and ending on the date on which primary petitions must be filed under section 2356 of this title.

(B) A period beginning on or after the date that another candidate for the office files the declaration set forth in subsection 2967(b) of this title and ending no later than 100 days after the beginning of that period or the date on which primary petitions must be filed under section 2356 of this title, whichever occurs first. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision (B) to the contrary, a period shall not begin more than one year prior to the upcoming general election.

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2982 is amended to read:

§ 2982. FILING OF VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE DECLARATION  
AND AFFIDAVIT

(a) A candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor who intends to seek Vermont campaign finance grants from the Secretary of State Services Fund shall file:

(1) a declaration of his or her chosen Vermont campaign finance qualification period on or before the date on which that chosen period begins; and

(2) a Vermont campaign finance affidavit on or before the date on or before which primary petitions must be filed, whether the candidate seeks to enter a party primary or is an independent candidate which his or her chosen Vermont campaign finance qualification period ends.

(b) The Secretary of State shall prepare ~~a~~ the Vermont campaign finance declaration and affidavit form forms described in this section, informational materials on procedures and financial requirements, and notification of the penalties for violation of this subchapter.

(c)(1) The Vermont campaign finance affidavit shall set forth the conditions of receiving grants under this subchapter and provide space for the candidate to agree that he or she will abide by such conditions and all

expenditure and contribution limitations, reporting requirements, and other provisions of this chapter.

\* \* \*

(3) The affidavit shall also contain a list of all the candidate's qualifying contributions together with the name and town of residence of the contributor and the date each contribution was made.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2983 is amended to read:

§ 2983. VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE GRANTS; CONDITIONS

(a) A person shall not be eligible for Vermont campaign finance grants if:

(1) prior to February 15 of the general election year during any two-year general election cycle his or her chosen Vermont campaign finance qualification period, he or she becomes a candidate by announcing that he or she seeks an elected position as Governor or Lieutenant Governor or by accepting contributions totaling \$2,000.00 or more or by making expenditures totaling \$2,000.00 or more; or

(2) except for the contributions permitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection, prior to accepting any Vermont campaign finance grant, he or she solicits or accepts any contributions, other than qualifying contributions.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2984 is amended to read:

§ 2984. QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS

(a) In order to qualify for Vermont campaign finance grants, a candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall obtain during ~~the~~ his or her chosen Vermont campaign finance qualification period the following amount and number of qualifying contributions for the office being sought:

(1) for Governor, a total amount of no less than \$35,000.00 collected from no fewer than 1,500 qualified individual contributors making a contribution of no more than \$50.00 each; or

(2) for Lieutenant Governor, a total amount of no less than \$17,500.00 collected from no fewer than 750 qualified individual contributors making a contribution of no more than \$50.00 each.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4a. 17 V.S.A. § 2967 is amended to read:

§ 2967. ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR

STATE OFFICE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a)(1) In addition to any other reports required to be filed under this chapter, a candidate for State office or for the General Assembly who accepts a monetary contribution in an amount over \$2,000.00 within 10 days of a primary or general election shall report the contribution to the Secretary of State within 24 hours of receiving the contribution.

~~(b)~~(2) A report required by this section shall include the following information:

~~(1)~~(A) the full name, town of residence, and mailing address of the contributor; the date of the contribution; and the amount contributed; and

~~(2)~~(B) the amount contributed or loaned by the candidate to his or her own campaign.

(b) In addition to any other reports required to be filed under this chapter, a candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor who, prior to February 15 of the even-numbered year, has accepted contributions totaling \$2,000.00 or more or who has made expenditures totaling \$2,000.00 or more shall file with the Secretary of State a declaration that he or she has accepted those contributions or made those expenditures. The Secretary shall prepare the declaration to be used for this purpose.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.