

H.477

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to election law

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 6 (17 V.S.A. § 2386 (time for filing statements))

in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2386 is amended to read:

§ 2386. TIME FOR FILING STATEMENTS

(a) ~~Statements pursuant to this subchapter, except for vacancies created by the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the~~ In the case of the failure of a major political party to nominate a candidate by primary, a statement shall be filed as set forth in section 2356 of this title not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the primary.

(b) In the case of the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary election, the party committee shall have seven days from the date of the death or withdrawal to nominate a candidate. In no event, shall a statement be filed later than 60 days prior to the election.

(c) In the case of a nomination by a minor political party, a statement shall be filed as set forth in section 2356 of this chapter.

(d) In the case of a nomination for the office of justice of the peace, a statement shall be filed as set forth in section 2413 of this chapter.

Second: By adding two new sections under the “Campaign Finance” reader assistance heading to be Secs. 29a and 29b to read as follows:

Sec. 29a. 17 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

§ 2903. PENALTIES

(a) A person who knowingly and intentionally violates a provision of subchapter 2, 3, or 4 of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000.00 for each violation and shall refund ~~the unspent balance of Vermont campaign finance grants received under subchapter 5 of this chapter, if any, calculated as of the date of the violation to~~ the Secretary of State an amount equivalent to any contributions or expenditures that violate subdivision 2983(b)(1) of this chapter.

(c) In addition to the other penalties provided in this section, a State’s Attorney or the Attorney General may institute any appropriate action, injunction, or other proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this chapter.

Sec. 29b. APPLICABILITY OF SEC. 29a

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 214(c) shall apply to Sec. 29a of this act.