

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate  
3 Bill No. 220 entitled “An act relating to the public financing of campaigns”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2902 is amended to read:

8 § 2902. EXCEPTIONS

9 The definitions of “contribution,” “expenditure,” and “electioneering  
10 communication” shall not apply to:

11 (1) any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the  
12 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical  
13 publication that has not been paid for or such facilities are not owned or  
14 controlled by any political party, committee, or candidate; ~~or~~

15 (2) any communication distributed through a public access television  
16 station if the communication complies with the laws and rules governing the  
17 station and if all candidates in the race have an equal opportunity to promote  
18 their candidacies through the station; or

19 (3) any documents containing voter information, including phone  
20 numbers, email lists, physical addresses, voting history, or other demographic  
21 information maintained by a town clerk or the Secretary of State.

1 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2981 is amended to read:

2 § 2981. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this subchapter:

4 \* \* \*

5 (4) “Vermont campaign finance qualification period” means one of the  
6 period beginning February 15 of each even-numbered year and ending on the  
7 date on which primary petitions must be filed under section 2356 of this title  
8 following periods, as chosen by a candidate who intends to seek Vermont  
9 campaign finance grants:

10 (A) The period beginning October 1 of the odd-numbered year and  
11 ending on January 15 of the even-numbered year.

12 (B) The period beginning November 1 of the odd-numbered year and  
13 ending on February 15 of the even-numbered year.

14 (C) The period beginning December 1 of the odd-numbered year and  
15 ending on March 15 of the even-numbered year.

16 (D) The period beginning January 1 of the even-numbered year and  
17 ending on April 15 of the even-numbered year.

18 (E) The period beginning February 1 of the even-numbered year and  
19 ending on May 15 of the even-numbered year.

1 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2982 is amended to read:

2 § 2982. FILING OF VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE AFFIDAVIT

3 (a) A candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor who  
4 intends to seek Vermont campaign finance grants from the Secretary of State  
5 Services Fund shall file a Vermont campaign finance affidavit on or before the  
6 date on ~~or before which primary petitions must be filed, whether the candidate~~  
7 ~~seeks to enter a party primary or is an independent candidate~~ which his or her  
8 chosen Vermont campaign finance qualification period ends.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2983 is amended to read:

11 § 2983. VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE GRANTS; CONDITIONS

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

13 (1) prior to February 15 of the general election year during any two-year  
14 general election cycle his or her chosen Vermont campaign finance

15 qualification period, he or she becomes a candidate by announcing that he or

16 she seeks an elected position as Governor or Lieutenant Governor or by

17 accepting contributions totaling \$2,000.00 or more or by making expenditures

18 totaling \$2,000.00 or more; or

19 (2) except for the contributions permitted under subdivision (1) of this

20 subsection, prior to accepting any Vermont campaign finance grant, he or she

21 solicits or accepts any contributions, other than qualifying contributions.

1 (b) A candidate who accepts Vermont campaign finance grants shall:

2 (1)~~(A)~~ Not solicit, accept, or expend any contributions except  
3 qualifying contributions, Vermont campaign finance grants, and contributions  
4 authorized under section 2985 of this chapter, which contributions may be  
5 solicited, accepted, or expended only in accordance with the provisions of this  
6 subchapter;

7 (B) For the purposes of this subdivision (1), notwithstanding the  
8 provisions of subdivision 2944(c)(1) of this chapter, an expenditure described  
9 in that subdivision that is made by a political party that is associated with the  
10 candidate shall not be presumed to be a related expenditure made on behalf of  
11 the candidate if it is not intentionally facilitated by, solicited by, or approved  
12 by the candidate or the candidate's committee.

13 (2) ~~deposit~~ Deposit all qualifying contributions, Vermont campaign  
14 finance grants, and any contributions accepted in accordance with the  
15 provisions of section 2985 of this chapter in a federally insured  
16 noninterest-bearing checking account; ~~and~~.

17 (3) ~~not~~ Not later than 40 days after the general election, deposit in the  
18 Secretary of State Services Fund, after all permissible expenditures have been  
19 paid, the balance of any amounts remaining in the account established under  
20 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

1 Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2984 is amended to read:

2 § 2984. QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

16

17

18 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19

20

21

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE