

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. § 2981 is amended to read:

8 § 2981. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this subchapter:

10 * * *

11 (4) “Vermont campaign finance qualification period” means one of the
12 period beginning February 15 of each even-numbered year and ending on the
13 date on which primary petitions must be filed under section 2356 of this title
14 following periods within which a candidate who intends to seek Vermont
15 campaign finance grants shall be required to obtain qualifying contributions, as
16 chosen by the candidate:

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 § 2982. FILING OF VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE DECLARATION
9 AND AFFIDAVIT

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

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

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

20 (b) The Secretary of State shall prepare a the Vermont campaign finance
21 declaration and affidavit ~~form~~ forms described in this section, informational

1 materials on procedures and financial requirements, and notification of the
2 penalties for violation of this subchapter.

3 (c)(1) The Vermont campaign finance affidavit shall set forth the
4 conditions of receiving grants under this subchapter and provide space for the
5 candidate to agree that he or she will abide by such conditions and all
6 expenditure and contribution limitations, reporting requirements, and other
7 provisions of this chapter.

8 * * *

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

12 * * *

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

14 § 2983. VERMONT CAMPAIGN FINANCE GRANTS; CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

10 (B) For the purposes of this subdivision (1), notwithstanding the
11 provisions of subdivision 2944(c)(1) of this chapter, an expenditure described
12 in that subdivision that is made by a political party that is associated with the
13 candidate shall not be presumed to be a related expenditure made on behalf of
14 the candidate.

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

19 (3) ~~not~~ Not later than 40 days after the general election, deposit in the
20 Secretary of State Services Fund, after all permissible expenditures have been

1 paid, the balance of any amounts remaining in the account established under
2 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

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

4 § 2984. QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

15 * * *

16 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Senator _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE