

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 120 entitled “An act relating to limiting corporate campaign
4 contributions” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2941 is amended to read:

8 § 2941. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

9 (a) In any election cycle:

10 (1)(A) A candidate for State Representative or for local office shall not
11 accept contributions totaling more than:

12 (i) \$1,000.00 from a single source; or

13 (ii) \$1,000.00 from a political committee.

14 (B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a
15 political party.

16 (2)(A) A candidate for State Senator or for county office shall not accept
17 contributions totaling more than:

18 (i) \$1,500.00 from a single source; or

19 (ii) \$1,500.00 from a political committee.

20 (B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a
21 political party.

1 (3)(A) A candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
2 Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General
3 shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

4 (i) \$4,000.00 from a single source; or

5 (ii) \$4,000.00 from a political committee.

6 (B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a
7 political party.

8 (4) A political committee shall not accept contributions totaling more
9 than:

10 (A) \$4,000.00 from a single source;

11 (B) \$4,000.00 from a political committee; or

12 (C) \$4,000.00 from a political party.

13 (5) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

14 (A) \$10,000.00 from a single source;

15 (B) \$10,000.00 from a political committee; or

16 (C) \$60,000.00 from a political party.

17 (6) [Repealed.]

18 (b) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not
19 contribute more to a candidate, political committee, or political party than the
20 candidate, political committee, or political party is permitted to accept under
21 this section.

1 (c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, only an
2 individual, a political committee, or a political party may make a contribution
3 to a candidate or to a political party.

4 (2) A candidate or a political party shall not accept a contribution from
5 any person other than those permitted to make such a contribution under
6 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

7 (d) As used in this section:

8 (1) For a candidate described in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section,
9 an “election cycle” means:

10 (A) in the case of a general or local election, the period that begins 38
11 days after the previous general or local election for the office and ends 38 days
12 after the general or local election for the office for which that person is a
13 candidate, and includes any primary or run-off election related to that general
14 or local election; or

15 (B) in the case of a special election, the period that begins on the date
16 the special election for the office was ordered and ends 38 days after that
17 special election, and includes any special primary or run-off election related to
18 that special election.

19 (2) For a political committee, political party, or single source described
20 in subdivisions (4)-(6) of subsection (a), an “election cycle” means a two-year
21 general election cycle.

1 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

2 § 2903. PENALTIES

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

6 (b) A person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a
7 civil penalty of up to \$10,000.00 for each violation and shall refund to the
8 Secretary of State an amount equivalent to any contributions or expenditures
9 that violate subdivision 2983(b)(1) of this chapter.

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

14 (d)(1) Prior to the Attorney General's or a State's Attorney's pursuing a
15 penalty under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a violation of this chapter,
16 the Attorney General or State's Attorney shall provide written notice to the
17 person alleged to have committed the violation. The notice shall describe the
18 violation and, if the violation can be cured, what the person would need to do
19 to come into compliance with this chapter in order to cure the violation.

20 (2) If the violation can be cured, such a person shall have 14 calendar
21 days from the date of the written notice to cure the violation. If the person

1 cures the violation within that time frame, the Attorney General or State’s
2 Attorney shall not pursue the penalty.

3 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Attorney General or
4 State’s Attorney from instituting any of the proceedings described in
5 subsection (c) of this section regarding a violation of this chapter prior to either
6 providing written notice of the violation or the curing of a violation under
7 subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1 shall take effect on
10 December 14, 2018.

11 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
12 to the persons authorized to make contributions to candidates and political
13 parties and to curing campaign finance violations”

14

15 (Committee vote: _____)

16

17

Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE