

DRAFT; NOT YET EDITED; FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 47 entitled “An act relating to the persons authorized to make
4 contributions to candidates and political parties” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by adding
6 Secs. 1a and 1b to read:

7 Sec. 1a. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

8 § 2901. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 * * *

11 (13) “Political committee” or “political action committee” means any
12 formal or informal committee of two or more individuals or a corporation,
13 labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a
14 political party, that accepts contributions of \$1,000.00 or more and makes
15 expenditures of \$1,000.00 or more in any two-year general election cycle for
16 the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an
17 election, or advocating a position on a public question in any election, or any
18 such entity that registers as a political committee pursuant to section 2922 of
19 this chapter prior to reaching those \$1,000.00 thresholds, and includes an
20 independent expenditure-only political committee and a legislative leadership
21 political committee.

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1 * * *

2 Sec. 1b. 17 V.S.A. § 2922 is amended to read:

3 § 2922. POLITICAL COMMITTEES; REGISTRATION; CHECKING

4 ACCOUNT; TREASURER

5 (a)(1)(A) Each political committee shall register with the Secretary of State
6 within 10 days of making expenditures of \$1,000.00 or more and accepting
7 contributions of \$1,000.00 or more ~~stating~~, and any other political committee
8 may register with the Secretary of State prior to reaching those \$1,000.00
9 thresholds.

10 (B) A political committee's name shall include the full name of its
11 connected organization or any clearly recognized abbreviation or acronym by
12 which the connected organization is commonly known.

13 (C) In its registration, a political committee shall state:

14 (i) its full name and address;

15 (ii) the name and address of the bank in which it maintains its
16 campaign checking account; ~~and~~

17 (iii) the name and address of the treasurer responsible for
18 maintaining the checking account; and

19 (iv) the full name of its connected organization and any clearly
20 recognized abbreviation or acronym by which the connected organization is
21 commonly known.

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1 (2)(A) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
2 subsection, a legislative leadership political committee shall designate in its
3 registration that it is established as a legislative leadership political committee.

4 (B) The Secretary of State shall provide on his or her website a list of
5 all legislative leadership political committees that have been designated as
6 provided in this subdivision (2).

7 (b)(1) All expenditures by a political committee shall be paid by either a
8 credit card or a debit card, check, or other electronic transfer from the single
9 campaign checking account in the bank designated by the political committee
10 under subsection (a) of this section, or, if under \$250.00, the political
11 committee may make the expenditure from cash from that campaign checking
12 account if accompanied by a receipt, a copy of which shall be maintained by
13 the political committee for at least two years from the end of the two-year
14 general election cycle in which the expenditure was made.

15 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the payment
16 of fees required to be made from a separately held online account designated
17 solely to collect campaign contributions made to the political committee.

18 (c) A political committee whose principal place of business or whose
19 treasurer is not located in this State shall file a statement with the Secretary of
20 State designating a person who resides in this State upon whom may be served
21 any process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon

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1 the political committee. This statement shall be filed at the same time as the
2 registration required in subsection (a) of this section.

3 (d) A connected organization is prohibited from registering more than one
4 political committee that makes contributions.

5 (e) As used in this section, “connected organization” means the formal or
6 informal committee of two or more individuals, corporation, labor
7 organization, public interest group, or other entity that directly or indirectly
8 establishes, administers, or financially supports a political committee, and
9 includes any organizational parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department, or
10 local unit thereof. For purposes of this subsection:

11 (1) “Financially supports” does not include contributions to the political
12 committee, but does include the payment of establishment, administration, and
13 solicitation costs of the political committee; and

14 (2) Members of a connected organization, such as organizations that or
15 individuals who are members of a trade association, labor organization, or
16 public interest group that is a connected organization, shall not be considered
17 to have directly or indirectly established, administered, or financially supported
18 the connected organization’s political committee.

19 (Committee vote: _____) _____

20 _____
21 Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE