

1 H.740

2 Introduced by Representative Lorber of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Elections; campaign finance; campaign reports

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to: 1) require uniform campaign  
7 finance reporting among state, legislative, county, and local candidates and  
8 political parties and political committees required to register with the secretary  
9 of state; and 2) require campaign finance reports to be filed for all offices with  
10 the secretary of state only.

11 An act relating to campaign finance reports

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. chapter 59, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

14 Subchapter 2. State, General Assembly, County, and Local Candidates;

15 Political Committees and Political Parties

16 § 2811. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE,

17 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COUNTY OFFICE, AND LOCAL

18 OFFICE; POLITICAL COMMITTEES, AND POLITICAL

19 PARTIES

1           (a) Each candidate for state office, and each candidate for the general  
2           assembly, a county office, or a local office who has made expenditures or  
3           received contributions of \$500.00 or more, and each political committee and  
4           each political party required to register under section 2831 of this ~~title~~ chapter  
5           shall file with the secretary of state campaign finance reports on ~~July 15th and~~  
6           ~~on the 15th of each month thereafter until and including December 15th the~~  
7           15th of each month as follows:

8                     (1) 18 months prior to the general election;

9                     (2) 12 months prior to the general election;

10                    (3) six months prior to the general election; and

11                    (4) monthly thereafter until and including one month subsequent to the  
12           election.

13           (b) At any time, but not later than December 15th following the general  
14           election, a candidate for state office and each candidate for the general  
15           assembly, a county office, or a local office who has made expenditures or  
16           received contributions of \$500.00 or more, and each political committee or  
17           political party shall file with the secretary of state a “final report” which lists a  
18           complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures, and disposition of  
19           surplus, and which shall constitute the termination of his or her campaign  
20           activities.

1           (c) ~~A political committee or political party shall file a campaign finance~~  
2 ~~report not later than 40 days following the general election. At any time, a~~  
3 ~~political committee or a political party may file a “final report” which lists a~~  
4 ~~complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures and which shall~~  
5 ~~constitute the termination of its campaign activities.~~

6           (d) ~~In odd numbered years campaign finance reports shall be filed on~~  
7 ~~July 15.~~

8           (e) ~~Each candidate for the general assembly required to file campaign~~  
9 ~~finance reports under this section shall also file such reports with the clerk of~~  
10 ~~the candidate’s respective senate or house district.~~

11           (f)(1) In addition to any other reports required to be filed under this  
12 chapter, a candidate for state office ~~or for~~ the general assembly ~~who receives a~~  
13 ~~monetary contribution, or a county or local office or a political committee or~~  
14 ~~political party that:~~

15                   (A) receives monetary contributions in an aggregate of \$2,000.00  
16 since the last report required to be filed by this section shall file an additional  
17 report with the secretary of state within 10 days;

18                   (B) receives a monetary contribution in an amount over \$2,000.00  
19 within 10 days of a primary or general election shall report the contribution to  
20 the secretary of state within 24 hours of receiving the contribution.

1           (2) The report shall include all information that is required to be  
2 disclosed under the provisions of subsections 2803(a) and (b) of this title.

3           (g) Each candidate for state office and each candidate for the general  
4 assembly who has made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or  
5 less shall file with the secretary of state, 10 days following the general election,  
6 a statement that the candidate has not made expenditures or received  
7 contributions of more than \$500.00 during the two-year general election cycle.

8           Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2831 is amended to read:

9           § 2831. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND  
10                                   PARTIES

11           (a) Each political committee and each political party which has accepted  
12 contributions or made expenditures of \$500.00 or more shall register with the  
13 secretary of state stating its full name and address, the name of its treasurer,  
14 and the name of the bank in which it maintains its campaign checking account  
15 within ten days of reaching the \$500.00 threshold.

16           (b) ~~A political committee or political party which has accepted~~  
17 ~~contributions or made expenditures of \$500.00, or more, for the purpose of~~  
18 ~~influencing a local election or supporting or opposing one or more candidates~~  
19 ~~in a local election shall file campaign finance reports ten days before and ten~~  
20 ~~days after the local election with the clerk of the municipality in which the~~  
21 ~~election is held and with the secretary of state.~~

1           (c) Any formal or informal committee of two or more individuals, or a  
2 corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not  
3 including a political party, which makes expenditures of more than \$500.00 in  
4 any one calendar year for the purpose of advocating a position on a public  
5 question in any election or affecting the outcome of an election on a public  
6 question shall file a report of its expenditures 10 days before and 10 days after  
7 the election with the clerk of the municipality in which the election is held and  
8 with the secretary of state.

9           Sec. 3. REPEAL

10           17 V.S.A. chapter 59, subchapter 3 (local candidates; general assembly) is  
11 repealed.

12           Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

13           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.