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I N S E N A T E

April 14, 2010

Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, SQUADRON -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to the disclosure of
sources for political advertisements

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY,
DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 14-107
2 to read as follows:

3 S 14-107. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE REPORTING. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
4 SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

5 (A) (I) "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" SHALL MEAN AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A
6 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE
7 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL
8 PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,
9 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFORMATION
10 CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC
11 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (A) EXPRESSLY
12 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR
13 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
14 OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND (B) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE CANDIDATE'S
15 POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO
16 PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS AGENTS, DID
17 NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION.
18 NICATION.

19 (II) INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES SHALL NOT INCLUDE:

20 (A) A COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR
21 EDITORIAL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING
22 STATION, CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE
23 OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR
24 CANDIDATE; OR

25 (B) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR

26 (C) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY
27 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (B) "PERSON" SHALL MEAN A PERSON, GROUP OF PERSONS, ENTITY, ORGANIZA-
2 TION OR ASSOCIATION.

3 (C) "TRADE ASSOCIATION" SHALL MEAN AN ENTITY HAVING AS A PRIMARY
4 PURPOSE THE PROMOTION, ADVANCEMENT OR SELF-REGULATION OF BUSINESSES,
5 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CORPORATION, UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION,
6 PARTNERSHIP, TRUST OR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH
7 ENTITY IS ORGANIZED FOR PROFIT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT, BUSINESS OR NON-BUSINESS
8 PURPOSES.

9 2. WHENEVER ANY PERSON OR TRADE ASSOCIATION MAKES AN INDEPENDENT
10 EXPENDITURE THAT COSTS MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE AGGREGATE,
11 SUCH COMMUNICATION SHALL CLEARLY STATE WHO PAID FOR, OR OTHERWISE
12 PUBLISHED OR DISTRIBUTED, THE COMMUNICATION AND STATE, WITH RESPECT TO
13 COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CANDIDATES, THAT THE COMMUNICATION IS NOT
14 AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE, ANY CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ANY
15 OF ITS AGENTS. A KNOWING AND WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF
16 THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL SUBJECT THE PERSON OR TRADE ASSOCIATION TO A
17 CIVIL PENALTY EQUAL TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR THE COST OF THE COMMUNI-
18 CATION, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, IN A SPECIAL PROCEEDING OR CIVIL ACTION
19 BROUGHT BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS. ANY ADVERTISEMENT IN WHICH THE
20 FUNDING SOURCE IS A TRADE ASSOCIATION SHALL DISCLOSE THE THREE CONTRIBU-
21 TORS TO SUCH TRADE ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTING THE MOST MONEY TO SUCH TRADE
22 ASSOCIATION.

23 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.