

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sens. SQUADRON, ADDABBO, KRUEGER, PERKINS, SERRANO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the business corporation law, the cooperative corporations law, the not-for-profit corporation law, the railroad law, the transportation corporations law, the banking law and the limited liability company law, in relation to enacting the "corporate political activity accountability to shareholders act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "corporate political activity accountability to shareholders act".  
3 S 2. The business corporation law is amended by adding a new section  
4 631 to read as follows:  
5 S 631. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.  
6 (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION:  
7 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
8 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
9 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
10 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
11 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
12 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
13 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
14 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
15 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
16 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
17 REGULATION;  
18 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
19 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
20 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-

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

LBD01406-01-1

1 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
2 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
3 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
4 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
5 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
6 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
7 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
8 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
9 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
10 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
11 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
12 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
13 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
14 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
15 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
16 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
17 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

18 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR  
19 EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, POLI-  
20 TICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT REFERENDUM, BEFORE A CORPO-  
21 RATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
22 EXPENDITURE, THE CORPORATION SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR  
23 AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES CAST ON SUCH RESOL-  
24 UTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES UP TO A STATED  
25 AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

26 (C) ANY CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES, MAKING A  
27 CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL AT LEAST ANNUALLY DISCLOSE  
28 TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN ACCOUNTING  
29 OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR SUCH  
30 PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

31 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;  
32 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;  
33 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
34 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
35 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
36 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND  
37 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
38 EXPENDITURE.

39 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH CORPORATION'S ANNUAL  
40 DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

41 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
42 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

43 S 3. The cooperative corporations law is amended by adding a new  
44 section 78 to read as follows:

45 S 78. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. 1. DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
46 SECTION:

47 (A) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
48 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
49 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
50 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
51 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
52 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
53 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
54 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
55 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY

1 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
2 REGULATION;

3 (B) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
4 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
5 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
6 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
7 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
8 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
9 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
10 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
11 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
12 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
13 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
14 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
15 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
16 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
17 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
18 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
19 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
20 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
21 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
22 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

23 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON COOPERATIVE CORPORATION  
24 CONTRIBUTIONS TO OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES,  
25 POLITICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES, OR BALLOT REFERENDUMS, BEFORE A  
26 COOPERATIVE CORPORATION MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDI-  
27 TURE, THE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION SHALL AT LEAST ANNUALLY OBTAIN THE  
28 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES OR MEMBERS CAST  
29 ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, UP  
30 TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

31 3. ANY COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES,  
32 MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUAL-  
33 LY, DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN  
34 ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR  
35 SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

36 (A) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

37 (B) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

38 (C) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
39 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
40 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
41 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

42 (D) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
43 EXPENDITURE.

44 4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH COOPERATIVE CORPORATION'S  
45 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

46 5. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
47 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

48 S 4. The not-for-profit corporation law is amended by adding a new  
49 section 523 to read as follows:

50 S 523. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

51 (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION:

52 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
53 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
54 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
55 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
56 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-

1 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
2 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
3 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
4 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
5 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
6 REGULATION;

7 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
8 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
9 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
10 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
11 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
12 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
13 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
14 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
15 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
16 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
17 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
18 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
19 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
20 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
21 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
22 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
23 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
24 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
25 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
26 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

27 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
28 CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OR  
29 PARTY OFFICE, POLITICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT REFEREN-  
30 DUM, BEFORE A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES MAY  
31 MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
32 CORPORATION SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY  
33 VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE  
34 CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNU-  
35 AL AMOUNT.

36 (C) ANY NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSID-  
37 IARIES, MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL AT LEAST  
38 ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS MEMBERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN  
39 ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR  
40 SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

41 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

42 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

43 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
44 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
45 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
46 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

47 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
48 EXPENDITURE.

49 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPO-  
50 RATION'S ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF  
51 STATE.

52 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
53 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

54 S 5. The railroad law is amended by adding a new section 35 to read as  
55 follows:

1 S 35. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. 1. DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
2 SECTION:

3 (A) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
4 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
5 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
6 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
7 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
8 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
9 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
10 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
11 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
12 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
13 REGULATION;

14 (B) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
15 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
16 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
17 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
18 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
19 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
20 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
21 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
22 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
23 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
24 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
25 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
26 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
27 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
28 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
29 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
30 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
31 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
32 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
33 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

34 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON RAILROAD CORPORATION CONTRIB-  
35 UTIONS TO OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES, POLITICAL  
36 COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES, OR BALLOT REFERENDUMS, BEFORE A RAILROAD  
37 CORPORATION MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE  
38 RAILROAD CORPORATION SHALL AT LEAST ANNUALLY OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORI-  
39 ZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES OR MEMBERS CAST ON SUCH  
40 RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, UP TO A  
41 STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

42 3. ANY RAILROAD CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES,  
43 MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUAL-  
44 LY, DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN  
45 ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR  
46 SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

47 (A) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

48 (B) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

49 (C) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
50 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
51 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
52 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

53 (D) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
54 EXPENDITURE.

55 4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH RAILROAD CORPORATION'S ANNU-  
56 AL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

1 5. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
2 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

3 S 6. The transportation corporations law is amended by adding a new  
4 section 7 to read as follows:

5 S 7. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
6 SECTION:

7 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
8 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
9 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
10 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
11 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
12 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
13 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
14 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
15 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
16 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
17 REGULATION;

18 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
19 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
20 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
21 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
22 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
23 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
24 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
25 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
26 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
27 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
28 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
29 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
30 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
31 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
32 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
33 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
34 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
35 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
36 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
37 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

38 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION  
39 CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OR  
40 PARTY OFFICE, POLITICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT REFEREN-  
41 DUM, BEFORE A TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES MAY  
42 MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE TRANSPORTATION  
43 CORPORATION SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY  
44 VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES CAST ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE  
45 CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNU-  
46 AL AMOUNT.

47 (C) ANY TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSID-  
48 IARIES, MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES SHALL AT LEAST  
49 ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF  
50 STATE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES  
51 USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

52 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

53 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

54 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
55 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-

1 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
2 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

3 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
4 EXPENDITURE.

5 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH TRANSPORTATION CORPO-  
6 RATION'S ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF  
7 STATE.

8 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
9 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

10 S 7. The banking law is amended by adding a new section 5017 to read  
11 as follows:

12 S 5017. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. 1. DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
13 SECTION:

14 (A) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
15 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
16 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
17 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
18 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
19 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
20 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
21 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
22 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
23 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
24 REGULATION;

25 (B) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
26 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
27 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
28 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
29 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
30 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
31 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
32 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
33 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
34 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
35 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
36 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
37 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
38 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
39 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
40 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
41 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
42 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
43 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
44 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

45 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO OR  
46 EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES, POLITICAL COMMITTEES,  
47 PARTY COMMITTEES, OR BALLOT REFERENDUMS, BEFORE A CORPORATION MAY MAKE A  
48 CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE CORPORATION SHALL AT LEAST  
49 ANNUALLY OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE  
50 SHARES OR MEMBERS CAST ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDE-  
51 PENDENT EXPENDITURES, UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

52 3. ANY CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES, MAKING A  
53 CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY,  
54 DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN  
55 ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR  
56 SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

1 (A) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

2 (B) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

3 (C) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
4 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
5 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
6 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

7 (D) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
8 EXPENDITURE.

9 4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH CORPORATION'S ANNUAL DISCLO-  
10 SURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

11 5. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
12 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

13 S 8. The business corporation law is amended by adding a new section  
14 1321 to read as follows:

15 S 1321. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

16 (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION:

17 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
18 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
19 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
20 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
21 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
22 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
23 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
24 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
25 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
26 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
27 REGULATION;

28 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
29 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
30 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
31 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
32 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
33 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
34 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
35 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
36 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
37 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
38 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
39 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
40 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
41 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
42 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
43 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
44 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
45 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
46 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
47 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

48 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR  
49 EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, POLI-  
50 TICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT REFERENDUM, BEFORE A  
51 FOREIGN CORPORATION DOING BUSINESS IN THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
52 SECTION THIRTEEN HUNDRED ONE OF THIS ARTICLE MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR  
53 INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE IN NEW YORK, THE FOREIGN CORPORATION SHALL, AT  
54 LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF  
55 THE SHARES CAST ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT  
56 EXPENDITURES UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.



1 (C) ANY FOREIGN CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES,  
2 MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE IN NEW YORK SHALL AT  
3 LEAST ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY  
4 OF STATE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES  
5 USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

6 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

7 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

8 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
9 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
10 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
11 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

12 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
13 EXPENDITURE.

14 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH FOREIGN CORPORATION'S ANNU-  
15 AL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

16 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
17 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

18 S 9. The limited liability company law is amended by adding a new  
19 section 510 to read as follows:

20 S 510. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
21 SECTION:

22 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
23 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
24 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
25 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
26 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
27 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
28 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
29 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
30 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
31 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
32 REGULATION;

33 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
34 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
35 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
36 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
37 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
38 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
39 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
40 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
41 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
42 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
43 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
44 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
45 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
46 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
47 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
48 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
49 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
50 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
51 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
52 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

53 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR EXPENDI-  
54 TURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, POLITICAL  
55 COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT REFERENDUM, BEFORE A LIMITED  
56 LIABILITY COMPANY MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE,

1 THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR  
2 AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OR MANAGERS CAST ON  
3 SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES UP TO  
4 A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

5 (C) ANY LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS SUBSID-  
6 IARIES, MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL AT LEAST  
7 ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS MEMBERS OR MANAGERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY  
8 OF STATE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES  
9 USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

10 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

11 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

12 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
13 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
14 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
15 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

16 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
17 EXPENDITURE.

18 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY'S  
19 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

20 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
21 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

22 S 10. The business corporation law is amended by adding a new section  
23 1517 to read as follows:

24 S 1517. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

25 (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION:

26 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
27 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
28 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
29 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
30 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
31 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
32 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
33 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
34 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
35 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
36 REGULATION;

37 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
38 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
39 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
40 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
41 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
42 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
43 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
44 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
45 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
46 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
47 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
48 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
49 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
50 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-  
51 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
52 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
53 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
54 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
55 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
56 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

1 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPO-  
2 RATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES FOR  
3 PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, POLITICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR BALLOT  
4 REFERENDUM, BEFORE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION MAY MAKE A  
5 CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPO-  
6 RATION SHALL, AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE  
7 OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES CAST ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIB-  
8 UTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL  
9 AMOUNT.

10 (C) ANY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR ITS  
11 SUBSIDIARIES, MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE SHALL AT  
12 LEAST ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE WITH THE SECRETARY  
13 OF STATE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES  
14 USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

15 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

16 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

17 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
18 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
19 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
20 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

21 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
22 EXPENDITURE.

23 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPO-  
24 RATION'S ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF  
25 STATE.

26 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
27 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

28 S 11. The business corporation law is amended by adding a new section  
29 1534 to read as follows:

30 S 1534. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

31 (A) DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION:

32 (1) THE TERM "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS ANY GIFT, SUBSCRIPTION, OUTSTANDING  
33 LOAN, ADVANCE, DEPOSIT OF MONEY OR ANY THING OF VALUE PROVIDED TO A  
34 POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PARTY COMMITTEE, CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OR DULY  
35 CONSTITUTED SUBCOMMITTEE OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE, AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
36 DEFINED IN ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE ELECTION LAW, IN SUPPORT OR OPPO-  
37 SITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, REFERENDUM, POLITICAL  
38 PARTY, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION OR ANY COMMUNICATION MADE TO THE  
39 GENERAL PUBLIC INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT A GOVERNMENT  
40 OFFICIAL, CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE OR POLITICAL PARTY  
41 REGARDING PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
42 REGULATION;

43 (2) THE TERM "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY A  
44 PERSON FOR AN AUDIO OR VIDEO COMMUNICATION TO A GENERAL PUBLIC AUDIENCE  
45 VIA BROADCAST, CABLE OR SATELLITE OR A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO A GENER-  
46 AL PUBLIC AUDIENCE VIA ADVERTISEMENTS, PAMPHLETS, CIRCULARS, FLYERS,  
47 BROCHURES, LETTERHEADS OR OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND STATEMENTS OR INFOR-  
48 MATION CONVEYED TO FIVE HUNDRED OR MORE MEMBERS OF A GENERAL PUBLIC  
49 AUDIENCE BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH: (I) EXPRESSLY  
50 ADVOCATES THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR  
51 THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL AND (II) SUCH CANDIDATE, THE  
52 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR ITS AGENTS, OR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
53 FORMED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL OR ITS  
54 AGENTS, DID NOT AUTHORIZE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, FOSTER OR COOPERATE IN ANY  
55 SUCH COMMUNICATION. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE: (I) A  
56 COMMUNICATION APPEARING IN A WRITTEN NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, OR EDITORI-

1 AL OR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF ANY BROADCASTING STATION,  
2 CABLE OR SATELLITE UNLESS SUCH PUBLICATION OR FACILITIES ARE OWNED OR  
3 CONTROLLED BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY, POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR CANDIDATE; OR  
4 (II) A COMMUNICATION THAT CONSTITUTES A CANDIDATE DEBATE OR FORUM; OR  
5 (III) A COMMUNICATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXPENDITURE MADE BY AN ENTITY  
6 REQUIRED TO REPORT SUCH EXPENDITURE WITH A BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

7 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS ON FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
8 CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO, OR EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF, CANDIDATES  
9 FOR PUBLIC OR PARTY OFFICE, POLITICAL COMMITTEES, PARTY COMMITTEES OR  
10 BALLOT REFERENDUM, BEFORE A FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, AS  
11 DEFINED BY SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION FIFTEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE OF  
12 THIS ARTICLE, MAY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE IN NEW  
13 YORK, THE FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION SHALL, AT LEAST ANNU-  
14 ALLY, OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES  
15 CAST ON SUCH RESOLUTION TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDI-  
16 TURES UP TO A STATED AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

17 (C) ANY FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR  
18 ITS SUBSIDIARIES, MAKING A CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE IN  
19 NEW YORK SHALL AT LEAST ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND FILE  
20 WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDE-  
21 PENDENT EXPENDITURES USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

22 (1) THE DATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

23 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE;

24 (3) THE IDENTITY OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION, OR IF AN INDE-  
25 PENDENT EXPENDITURE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CANDIDATE, REFERENDUM, POLI-  
26 TICAL PARTY, PENDING LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR A GOVERNMENT RULE OR  
27 REGULATION SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED; AND

28 (4) THE BUSINESS RATIONALE FOR EACH SUCH CONTRIBUTION OR INDEPENDENT  
29 EXPENDITURE.

30 (D) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL POST EACH FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL  
31 SERVICE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL DISCLOSURE ON THE WEB SITE MAINTAINED BY  
32 THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

33 (E) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY COMMENCE AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING  
34 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

35 S 12. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or  
36 part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdic-  
37 tion to be invalid and after exhaustion of all further judicial review,  
38 the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder there-  
39 of, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence,  
40 paragraph, section or part of this act directly involved in the contro-  
41 versy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

42 S 13. This act shall take effect on the first of August next succeed-  
43 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.