

STATE OF NEW YORK

3154--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 20, 2017

Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, AVELLA, RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to disclosure of the identities of political committees making certain expenditures for political communications

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 14-106 of the election law, as amended by section 3
2 of subpart C of part H of chapter 55 of the laws of 2014, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 § 14-106. Political communication. 1. The statements required to be
5 filed under the provisions of this article next succeeding a primary,
6 general or special election shall be accompanied by a copy of all broad-
7 cast, cable or satellite schedules and scripts, internet, print and
8 other types of advertisements, pamphlets, circulars, flyers, brochures,
9 letterheads and other printed matter purchased or produced, and repro-
10 ductions of statements or information published to five hundred or more
11 members of a general public audience by computer or other electronic
12 device including but not limited to electronic mail or text message,
13 purchased in connection with such election by or under the authority of
14 the person filing the statement or the committee or the person on whose
15 behalf it is filed, as the case may be. Such copies, schedules and
16 scripts shall be preserved by the officer with whom or the board with
17 which it is required to be filed for a period of one year from the date
18 of filing thereof.

19 2. All political committees that make an expenditure for a political
20 communication shall be required to disclose the identity of the poli-
21 tical committee which made the expenditure for such political communi-
22 cation. The disclosure on printed or digital political communications,

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

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1 including but not limited to brochures, flyers, posters, mailings, or
2 internet advertising shall be printed or typed in an appropriate legible
3 form to read as follows: "Paid for by:" followed by the name of the
4 political committee making the expenditure. The disclosure on non-print-
5 ed or digital political communications shall clearly and prominently
6 display and/or speak the following statement: "Paid for by:" followed by
7 the name of the political committee making the expenditure. In the case
8 of a political communication that is not visual, such as radio or auto-
9 mated telephone calls, clearly speaking the statement will satisfy the
10 requirements of this section.

11 3. Political communications that are considered promotional items
12 which support a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
13 and limit the content of communication to the name, office and brief
14 message of support, shall be exempt from the provisions of subdivision
15 two of this section. Promotional items shall be items that are of nomi-
16 nal value and are distributed to the general public in an effort to
17 promote a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
18 including but not limited to pens, bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons,
19 shirts, bags or balloons.

20 4. Political communication that is considered digital media which
21 advertises for a particular candidate, election, ballot measure or issue
22 which limits the content of communication to the name, office and brief
23 message shall not be subject to the provisions of subdivision two of
24 this section if such digital media is unable to contain the "paid for
25 by" statement due to its small size and contains a link to another
26 webpage where the "paid for by" statement is prominently displayed.

27 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 14-107 of the election law, as amended
28 by section 2 of part A of chapter 286 of the laws of 2016, is amended to
29 read as follows:

30 2. Whenever any person makes an independent expenditure that costs one
31 thousand dollars or more in the aggregate, such communication shall, in
32 a manner consistent with section 14-106 of this article, clearly state
33 the name of the person who paid for, or otherwise published or distrib-
34 uted the communication and state, with respect to communications regard-
35 ing candidates, that the communication was not expressly authorized or
36 requested by any candidate, or by any candidate's political committee or
37 any of its agents.

38 § 3. Subdivision 3 of section 14-126 of the election law, as added by
39 section 6 of subpart C of part H of chapter 55 of the laws of 2014, is
40 amended to read as follows:

41 3. Any person who falsely identifies or knowingly fails to identify
42 any independent expenditure as required by subdivision two of section
43 14-107 of this article or any political committee as required in section
44 14-106 of this article shall be subject to a civil penalty up to one
45 thousand dollars or up to the cost of the communication, whichever is
46 greater, in a special proceeding or civil action [~~brought by the state~~
47 ~~board of elections chief enforcement counsel or imposed directly by the~~
48 ~~state board of elections~~]. For purposes of this subdivision, the term
49 "person" shall mean a person, group of persons, corporation, unincorpo-
50 rated business entity, labor organization or business, trade or profes-
51 sional association or organization or political committee.

52 § 4. The state board of elections shall promulgate all rules and regu-
53 lations necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or before
54 its effective date.

55 § 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
56 ing the date upon which it shall have become a law.