

3  
4  
1 S.278

2 AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCING CAMPAIGNS

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

4 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

5 The general assembly finds that:

6 (1) Large campaign contributions reduce public confidence in the  
7 electoral process and increase the risk and the appearance that candidates and  
8 elected officials will not act in the best interests of all Vermont citizens.

9 (2) Some candidates and elected officials, particularly when time is  
10 limited, may respond and give access to contributors who make large  
11 contributions in preference to those who make small or no contributions.

12 (3) In Vermont, contributions greater than the amounts specified in this  
13 act are considered by the general assembly, candidates, and elected officials to  
14 be large contributions.

15 (4) In Vermont, contributions in the amounts permitted in this act  
16 adequately allow contributors to express their opinions, levels of support, and  
17 affiliations with respect to candidates, political committees, and political parties.

18 (5) In Vermont, candidates can raise sufficient monies to fund effective  
19 campaigns from contributions no larger than the amounts specified in this act.

20 (6) In Vermont, lower contribution limits have not prevented challengers  
21 from maintaining robust and competitive campaigns.

1       (7) Limiting large contributions will encourage direct and small group  
2 contact between candidates and the electorate and will encourage the personal  
3 involvement of a larger number of citizens in campaigns, both of which are  
4 crucial to public confidence and the robust debate of issues.

5       (8) In Vermont, campaign expenditures by persons who are not candidates  
6 have been increasing and public confidence is eroded when unidentified  
7 expenditures are made, particularly during the final days of a campaign.

8       (9) Identification of persons who publish political advertisements and  
9 electioneering communications assists in enforcement of the campaign finance  
10 limitations established by this act.

11       (10) Aggregate contributions limitations are necessary to limit the  
12 influence of a single source, political committee, or political party in an election.

13       (11) There is an extensive record supporting the need for the regulation of  
14 campaign finance in Vermont that was compiled during the consideration of No.  
15 64 of the Acts of 1997, and that was considered by the courts during the  
16 litigation of Landell v. Sorrell, 118 F.Supp. 459 (D.Vt. 2000), aff'd in part and  
17 vacated in part, 382 F.3d 91 (2d Cir. 2004), rev'd and remanded sub nom.  
18 Randall v. Sorrell, 126 S. Ct. 2479 (2006), and during the General Assembly's  
19 consideration of S.164 during the 2007 legislative session.

20       (12) This act is necessary in order to implement more fully the provisions  
21 of Article 8 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the State of Vermont, which  
22 declares "That all elections ought to be free and without corruption, and that all

1 voters, having a sufficient, evident, common interest with, and attachment to the  
2 community, have a right to elect officers, and be elected into office, agreeably to  
3 the regulations made in this constitution.”

4 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2801 is amended to read:

5 § 2801. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) “Candidate” means an individual who has taken affirmative action to  
8 become a candidate for state, county, local, or legislative office in a primary,  
9 special, general, or local election. An affirmative action shall include one or  
10 more of the following:

11 (A) accepting contributions or making expenditures totaling \$500.00  
12 or more; or

13 (B) filing the requisite petition for nomination under this title or being  
14 nominated by primary or caucus; or

15 (C) announcing that he or she seeks an elected position as a state,  
16 county, or local officer or a position as representative or senator in the general  
17 assembly.

18 (2) “Clearly identified.” with respect to a candidate, means that:

19 (A) The name of the candidate appears;

20 (B) A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or

21 (C) The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous

22 reference.

1                     (3) "Contribution" means a payment, distribution, advance, deposit, loan,  
2 or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised to be paid ~~to a person~~ for  
3 the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on a public  
4 question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates in any election, ~~but~~  
5 ~~shall not include services provided without compensation by individuals~~  
6 ~~volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political committee or political~~  
7 ~~party.~~ For purposes of this chapter, "contribution" shall not include a ~~personal~~  
8 ~~loan from a lending institution~~ any of the following:

9                     (A) a personal loan of money to a candidate from a lending institution  
10 made in the ordinary course of business;

11                     (B) services provided without compensation by individuals  
12 volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or political  
13 party;

14                     (C) unreimbursed travel expenses paid for by an individual who  
15 volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these  
16 expenses does not exceed \$1,000.00 per election;

17                     (D) unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses paid for by the  
18 candidate or the candidate's spouse or civil union partner;

19                     (E) the payment by a political party of the costs of preparation, display,  
20 or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate listing;

21                     (F) documents, in printed or electronic form, including party  
22 platforms, single copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the

24  
1 requirements of this title, lists of registered voters and voteridentification  
2 information, created, obtained, or maintained by a political party for the general  
3 purpose of party building and provided to a candidate who is a member of that  
4 party or to another political party;

5 (G) compensation paid by a political party to its employees whose job  
6 responsibilities are not for the specific and exclusive benefit of a single  
7 candidate in any election

8 (H) campaign training sessions provided to three or more candidates;  
9 (I) costs paid for by a political party in connection with a campaign  
10 event at which three or more candidates are present;

11 (J) the use of offices, telephones, computers, and similar equipment  
12 (K) activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to  
13 register to vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention or  
14 depict a clearly identified candidate;

15 (L) compensation paid by a political party to its employees or  
16 consultants for the purpose of providing assistance to another political party.

17 (3)(4) “Expenditure” means a payment, disbursement, distribution,  
18 advance, deposit, loan, or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised  
19 to be paid, for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on a  
20 public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates. For the  
21 purposes of this chapter, “expenditure” shall not include any of the following:

1                   (A) a personal loan of money to a candidate from a lending institution  
2                   made in the ordinary course of business;

3                   (B) services provided without compensation by individuals  
4                   volunteering their time on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or political  
5                   party;

6                   (C) unreimbursed travel expenses paid for by an individual who  
7                   volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these  
8                   expenses does not exceed \$1,000.00 per election;

9                   (D) unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses paid for by the  
10                   candidate or the candidate's spouse or civil union partner.

11                   (5) "Party candidate listing" means any communication by a political  
12                   party that:

13                   (A) lists the names of at least three candidates for election to public  
14                   office;

15                   (B) is distributed through public advertising such as broadcast stations,  
16                   cable television, newspapers and similar media, or through direct mail,  
17                   telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible sites on the internet or personal  
18                   delivery;

19                   (C) treats all candidates in the communication in a substantially similar  
20                   manner; and

21                   (D) is limited to:

33  
34  
1        (i) the identification of each candidate, with which pictures may be  
2        used;

3        (ii) the offices sought;

4        (iii) the offices currently held by the candidates;

5        (iv) the party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement

6        about the party or the candidates' positions, philosophy, goals, accomplishments,  
7        or biographies;

8        (v) encouragement to vote for the candidates identified; and

9        (vi) information about voting, such as voting hours and locations.

10        (4)(6) "Political committee" or "political action committee" means any  
11        formal or informal committee of two or more individuals, or a corporation, labor  
12        organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political party,  
13        which receives contributions of more than \$500.00 and makes expenditures of  
14        more than \$500.00 in any one calendar year for the purpose of supporting or  
15        opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a  
16        position on a public question in any election or affecting the outcome of an  
17        election.

18        (5)(7) "Political party" means a political party organized under chapter 45  
19        of this title or and any committee established, financed, maintained, or  
20        controlled by the party, including any subsidiary, branch, or local unit thereof  
21        and including national or regional affiliates of the party and shall be considered a

1 single, unified political party. The national affiliate of the political party shall be  
2 considered a separate political party.

3 ~~(6)~~(8) “Single source” means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
4 association, labor organization, or any other organization or group of persons  
5 which is not a political committee or political party.

6 ~~(7)~~(9) “Election” means the procedure whereby the voters of this state or  
7 any of its political subdivisions select or caucus selects a person to be a  
8 candidate for public office or fill a public office, or to act on public questions  
9 including voting on constitutional amendments. Each primary, general, special,  
10 run-off, or local election shall constitute a separate election.

11 ~~(8)~~(10) “Public question” means an issue that is before the voters for a  
12 binding decision.

13 ~~(9)~~(11) “Two-year general election cycle” means the 24-month period that  
14 begins 38 days after a general election. ~~Expenditures related to a previous~~  
15 ~~campaign and contributions to retire a debt of a previous campaign shall be~~  
16 ~~attributed to the earlier campaign cycle.~~

17 ~~(10)~~(12) “Full name” means an individual’s full first name, middle name  
18 or initial, if any, and full legal last name, making the identity of the person who  
19 made the contribution apparent by unambiguous reference.

20 ~~(11)~~(13) “Telephone bank” means more than 500 telephone calls of an  
21 identical or substantially similar nature that are made to the general public  
22 within any 30-day period.

43  
44  
1 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2801a is amended to read:

2 § 2801a. EXCEPTIONS

3 The definitions of “contribution,” “expenditure,” and “electioneering  
4 communication” shall not apply to:

5 (1) any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the  
6 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical  
7 publication which has not been paid for, or such facilities are not owned or  
8 controlled, by any political party, committee, or candidate; and

9 (2) any communication distributed through a public access television  
10 station if the communication complies with the laws and rules governing the  
11 station, and all candidates in the race have an equal opportunity to promote their  
12 candidacies through the station.

13 Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2805 is amended to read:

14 § 2805. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

15 (a) A candidate for state representative or local office shall not accept  
16 contributions totaling more than \$200.00 \$250.00 from a single source; or  
17 political committee or political party in for any two-year general election cycle.

18 (b) A candidate for state senator or county office shall not accept  
19 contributions totaling more than \$300.00 \$500.00 from a single source; or  
20 political committee or political party in for any two-year general election cycle.

21 (c) A candidate for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of  
22 state, state treasurer, auditor of accounts, or attorney general shall not accept

49  
1 contributions totaling more than ~~\$400.00~~ \$1,000.00 from a single source; or  
2 political committee ~~or political party in~~ for any two-year general election cycle.  
3 ~~A political committee, other than a political committee of a candidate, or a~~  
4 ~~political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than \$2,000.00 from a~~  
5 ~~single source, political committee or political party in any two year general~~  
6 ~~election cycle.~~

7 (b)(d) A single source, ~~political committee or political party~~ shall not  
8 contribute more ~~to a candidate, political committee or political party~~ than the  
9 ~~candidate, political committee or political party~~ is permitted to accept under  
10 subsection (a) of this section than \$20,000.00 to all candidates in any two-year  
11 general election cycle. A single source shall not contribute more than  
12 \$20,000.00 to all political committees and political parties in any two-year  
13 general election cycle.

14 (e)(e) A candidate, ~~political party or political committee~~ shall not accept,  
15 from a political party contributions totaling more than the following amounts in  
16 any two-year general election cycle, ~~more than 25 percent of total contributions~~  
17 ~~from contributors who are not residents of the state of Vermont or from political~~  
18 ~~committees or parties not organized in the state of Vermont:~~

19 (1) For the office of governor, \$30,000.00;  
20 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor, \$10,000.00;  
21 (3) For the office of secretary of state, state treasurer, auditor of accounts,  
22 or attorney general, \$5,000.00;

53  
54  
1        (4) For the office of state senator or county office, \$2,000.00;  
2        (5) For the office of state representative or local office, \$1,000.00.  
3        (f) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not contribute  
4        more to a candidate, political committee, or political party than the candidate,  
5        political committee, or political party is permitted to accept under subsections  
6        (a) through (d) and (f) of this section.

7        ~~(d)~~(g) A candidate shall not accept a monetary contribution in excess of  
8        \$50.00 unless made by check, credit or debit card, or other electronic transfer.

9        ~~(e)~~(h) A candidate, political party, or political committee shall not knowingly  
10      accept a contribution which is not directly from the contributor, but was  
11      transferred to the contributor by another person for the purpose of transferring  
12      the same to the candidate, or otherwise circumventing the provisions of this  
13      chapter. It shall be a violation of this chapter for a person to make a contribution  
14      with the explicit or implicit understanding that the contribution will be  
15      transferred in violation of this subsection.

16       ~~(f)~~(i) This section shall not be interpreted to limit the amount a candidate or  
17      his or her immediate family may contribute to his or her own campaign. For  
18      purposes of this subsection, "immediate family" means ~~individuals related to the~~  
19      ~~candidate in the first, second or third degree of consanguinity a candidate's~~  
20      ~~spouse or civil union partner, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sister,~~  
21      ~~brother, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild, stepgrandchild, stepsister,~~

59  
1 stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
2 son-in-law, daughter-in-law, legal guardian, or former legal guardian

3 (g)(j) The limitations on contributions established by this section shall not  
4 apply to contributions made for the purpose of advocating a position on a public  
5 question, including a constitutional amendment.

6 (h)(k) For purposes of this section, the term "candidate" includes the  
7 candidate's political committee.

8 (l) The contribution limitations contained in this section shall be adjusted for  
9 inflation by increasing them based on the Consumer Price Index. Increases shall  
10 be rounded up to the nearest \$10.00. Increases shall be effective for the first  
11 two-year general election cycle beginning after the general election held in  
12 2008. On or before July 1, 2009, the secretary of state shall calculate and  
13 publish the amount of each limitation that will apply to the election cycle in  
14 which July 1, 2009 falls. On July 1 of each subsequent odd-numbered year, the  
15 secretary shall publish the amount of each limitation for the election cycle in  
16 which that publication falls.

17 (m) Contributions accepted by candidates shall be treated as follows:

18 (1) A candidate who accepts a contribution prior to the date of the primary  
19 election may designate the contribution, or portion of the contribution, as either  
20 a primary or general election contribution. Once designated, a general election  
21 contribution accepted prior to the primary election shall be accounted for  
22 separately.

63  
64 1       (2) A contribution accepted by a candidate after the date of the primary  
2       election shall be a general election contribution. A candidate may designate a  
3       contribution, or portion of the contribution, accepted after the date of the  
4       primary election as a primary election contribution only for the purpose of  
5       retiring debt incurred for the primary election.

6       (3) Contributions that were accepted prior to the primary election may be  
7       used for the general election if all debt incurred for the primary election has been  
8       retired.

9       (4) Expenditures related to a previous two-year general election cycle and  
10       contributions to retire a debt of a previous two-year general election cycle shall  
11       be attributed to the earlier two-year general election cycle.

12       (n) The following shall apply to independent candidates:

13       (1) The limitations on contributions set forth in subsection (a), (b), or (c)  
14       of this section shall be doubled for independent candidates prior to the date of a  
15       primary election.

16       (2) The following shall apply to an independent candidate who certifies to  
17       the secretary of state that he or she will not accept contributions from any  
18       political party:

19       (A) The candidate may accept contributions from one political  
20       committee, designated by the candidate, up to the limitations set forth in  
21       subsection (e) of this section for political party contributions; and

22       (B) For the purposes of this chapter, "contribution" shall not include:

69  
1 (i) Compensation paid by one political committee, designated by

2 the candidate, to its employees;

3 (ii) Costs paid for by one political committee, designated by the  
4 candidate, in connection with a campaign event.

5 (o) A candidate accepts a contribution when the contribution is deposited in  
6 the candidate's campaign account.

7 Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2805b is added to read:

8 § 2805b. LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS; POLITICAL  
9 COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

10 (a) In any two-year general election cycle:

11 (1) A political committee, other than a political committee of a candidate,  
12 shall not accept contributions totaling more than \$2,000.00 from a single source,  
13 political committee, or political party.

14 (2) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than  
15 \$2,000.00 from a single source or political committee.

16 (3) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than  
17 \$30,000.00 from another political party.

18 (b) The contribution limitations contained in this section shall be adjusted for  
19 inflation by increasing them based on the Consumer Price Index. Increases shall  
20 be rounded up to the nearest \$10.00. Increases shall be effective for the first  
21 two-year general election cycle beginning after the general election held in  
22 2008. On or before July 1, 2009, the secretary of state shall calculate and

73  
74  
1 publish the amount of each limitation that will apply to the election cycle in  
2 which July 1, 2009 falls. On July 1 of each subsequent odd-numbered year, the  
3 secretary shall publish the amount of each limitation for the election cycle in  
4 which that publication falls.

5 (c) In any two-year general election cycle:

6 (1) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not  
7 contribute more than \$2,000.00 to a political committee, other than a political  
8 committee of a candidate.

9 (2) A single source or political committee shall not contribute more than  
10 \$2,000.00 to a political party.

11 (3) A political party shall not contribute more than \$30,000.00 to another  
12 political party.

13 (d) The limitations on contributions established by this section shall not  
14 apply to contributions made for the purpose of advocating a position on a public  
15 question, including a constitutional amendment.

78  
79  
1 Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2809 is amended to read:

2 § 2809. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ~~RELATED~~ COORDINATED  
3 EXPENDITURES

4 (a) A ~~related~~ coordinated campaign expenditure made on a candidate's behalf  
5 shall be considered a contribution to the candidate on whose behalf it was made  
6 (b) A ~~related~~ coordinated campaign expenditure made on a candidate's behalf  
7 shall be considered an expenditure by the candidate on whose behalf it was  
8 made. However, if the expenditure did not exceed \$50.00, the expenditure shall  
9 not be considered an expenditure by the candidate on whose behalf it was made.

10 (c) For the purposes of this section, a “~~related~~ coordinated campaign  
11 expenditure made on the candidate's behalf” means any expenditure ~~intended to~~  
12 ~~promote the election of a specific candidate or group of candidates, or the defeat~~  
13 ~~of an opposing candidate or group of candidates, if intentionally facilitated by,~~  
14 ~~solicited by or approved by the candidate or the candidate's political committee~~  
15 ~~made by a single source, political committee, or political party in cooperation,~~  
16 ~~consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a~~  
17 ~~candidate's political committee, or an agent, unless otherwise exempt under~~  
18 ~~subdivision 2801(3) or (4) or section 2801a of this title.~~

19 (d) ~~An expenditure made by a political party or by a political committee that~~  
20 ~~recruits or endorses candidates, that primarily benefits six or fewer candidates~~  
21 ~~who are associated with the political party or political committee making the~~  
22 ~~expenditure, is presumed to be a related expenditure made on behalf of those~~

83  
84  
1 ~~candidates. An expenditure made by a political party or by a political committee~~  
2 ~~that recruits or endorses candidates, that substantially benefits more than six~~  
3 ~~candidates and facilitates party or political committee functions, voter turnout,~~  
4 ~~platform promotion or organizational capacity shall not be presumed to be a~~  
5 ~~related expenditure made on a candidate's behalf. In addition, an expenditure~~  
6 ~~shall not be considered a "related campaign expenditure made on the candidate's~~  
7 ~~behalf" if all of the following apply:~~

8           (1) ~~The expenditures were made in connection with a campaign event~~  
9 ~~whose purpose was to provide a group of voters with the opportunity to meet the~~  
10 ~~candidate personally.~~

11           (2) ~~The expenditures were made only for refreshments and related~~  
12 ~~supplies that were consumed at that event.~~

13           (3) ~~The amount of the expenditures for the event was less than \$100.00.~~

14           For the purposes of this section, a "coordinated campaign expenditure made  
15 on the candidate's behalf" does not mean:

16           (1) the cost of invitations and postage and of food and beverages  
17 voluntarily provided by an individual to provide an opportunity for a group of  
18 voters to meet a candidate, if the cumulative value of these activities by the  
19 individual on behalf of any candidate does not exceed \$500.00 per election;

20           (2) the sale of any food or beverage by a vendor at a charge less than the  
21 normal comparable charge, for use at a campaign event providing an opportunity  
22 for a group of voters to meet a candidate, if the charge to the candidate is at least

89  
1 equal to the cost of the food or beverages to the vendor and if the cumulative  
2 value of the food or beverages does not exceed \$500.00 per election; or  
3 (3) amounts expended by a membership organization in compiling and  
4 disseminating a nonpartisan voter guide that includes reports of votes on  
5 legislation by, or answers to written questions directed to, all or substantially all  
6 of the candidates seeking election to the general assembly or to statewide office,  
7 about the candidate's position on issues of concern to the organization, if all of  
8 the following apply:

9 (A) the organization was not created for the major purpose of  
10 influencing elections;

11 (B) the organization identifies itself as the sponsor of the  
12 communication, and accepts no funding from a candidate, political committee,  
13 or political party to defray the costs of the voter guide

14 (C) the voter guide does not contain a phrase such as "vote for,"  
15 "re-elect," "support," "cast your ballot for," "(name of candidate) for Senate,"  
16 "(name of candidate) in (year)" "vote against," "defeat," or "reject," or  
17 otherwise is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to  
18 vote for or against a candidate or candidates;

19 (D) the voter guide does not contain photographs or messages  
20 provided by a candidate or his or her political committee or agents other than  
21 responses to a general questionnaire submitted to all candidates.

22

\* \* \*

93  
94  
1 Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2891 is amended to read:

2 § 2891. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter, “electioneering communication”:

4 (1) means any communication, including communications published in  
5 any newspaper or periodical or broadcast on radio or television or over any  
6 public address system, placed on any billboards, outdoor facilities, buttons or  
7 printed material attached to motor vehicles, window displays, posters, cards,  
8 pamphlets, leaflets, flyers, or other circulars, or in any direct mailing, robotic  
9 phone calls, or mass e-mails that refers to a clearly identified candidate for office  
10 and that promotes or supports a candidate for that office, or attacks or opposes a  
11 candidate for that office, regardless of whether the communication expressly  
12 advocates a vote for or against a candidate.

13 (2) does not mean disseminating a nonpartisan voter guide that qualifies  
14 as an exemption from the definition of “coordinated campaign expenditure made  
15 on the candidate’s behalf” under subdivision 2809(d)(3) of this title.

16 Sec. 8. 17 V.S.A. § 2893(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) In addition to any other reports required to be filed under this chapter, a  
18 person who makes expenditures for any one mass media activity totaling  
19 \$500.00 or more within 30 days of a primary or general election shall, for each  
20 activity, file a mass media report with the secretary of state and send a ~~copy~~  
21 copies, by a verifiable method of sending, of the mass media report and the  
22 complete mass media activity in the same format as distributed to the public to

99  
1 each candidate whose name or likeness is included in the activity ~~within 24~~  
2 ~~hours of the expenditure or activity, whichever occurs first at the same time as~~  
3 the release of the information contained in the mass media activity to the public.

4 For the purposes of this section, a person shall be treated as having made an  
5 expenditure if the person has executed a contract to make the expenditure. The  
6 report shall identify the person who made the expenditure with the name of the  
7 candidate involved in the activity and any other information relating to the  
8 expenditure that is required to be disclosed under the provisions of subsections  
9 2803(a) and (b) of this title.

103

104

1 Sec. 9. EVALUATION OF 2008 PRIMARY AND GENERALELECTIONS

2 The house and senate committees on governmentoperations shall evaluate  
3 the 2008 primary and general elections to determine whether the major  
4 provisions of this act are accomplishing their intended purposes.

5 Sec. 10. SECRETARY OF STATE;

6 (a) The secretary of state shall recommend a plan for improving and  
7 upgrading:

8 (1) the ability of candidates to file and report electronically information  
9 required by chapter 55 of Title 17; and  
10 (2) Internet access by the public of information required to be reported  
11 under chapter 55 of Title 17.

12 (b) The secretary of state shall submit a report of the recommendations  
13 required by subsection (a) of this section to the general assembly by  
14 February 16, 2009 that shall include cost estimates of the recommendations.

15 Sec. 11. REPEAL

16 17 V.S.A. § 2805a (campaign expenditure limitations) is repealed.

17 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect upon passage.