

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ Session, 2021

H. B. 22- 67

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 1 CMC §6424 to require all candidates and their respective committees to fully disclose financial contributions and expenses of amounts in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) within fifteen (15) days.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22<sup>ND</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that our current  
2 laws require candidates to file a detailed financial statement of accounts within fifty  
3 days after elections are over. However, the Legislature finds that it would be  
4 extremely appropriate to disclose such information within fifteen (15) days as a  
5 means to promote better transparency. When candidates are transparent with their  
6 information, it will allow for them to build stronger relationships with the general  
7 public and allow for them to conduct their campaigns in an ethical manner. The  
8 Legislature also finds that other U.S. jurisdictions, such as Alabama, Alaska,  
9 California, Hawaii, etc., have enacted laws that require candidates to expose  
10 contributions and expenses prior to any election. It would be pertinent for our great  
11 Commonwealth to follow these jurisdictions to provide better transparencies to its  
12 citizens.

1           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC §6424 to require all  
2 candidates and their respective committees to fully disclose financial contributions  
3 and expenses of amounts in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) within fifteen  
4 (15) days.

5           **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC §6424 is hereby amended to read as  
6 follows:

7           **“§6424. Campaign Statement of Account; Filing; Verification.**

8           A candidate shall file a detailed financial statement of account prepared with  
9 the advice and co-signature of his treasurer or the election or reelection  
10 commit- tee with the Office of the Public Auditor and a copy to the  
11 Commission within ~~fifty (50)~~ fifteen (15) days after ~~the election a~~  
12 candidate’s and/or his/her respective committee’s financial campaign  
13 contributions or expenses are in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

14           Subject to the limitation of Section 6421(a), the statement shall include the  
15 names and contributions of supporters contributing in cash or in-kind and a  
16 detailed statement of campaign spending. All statements of account shall be  
17 verified under oath by the candidate and his treasurer. Such verification  
18 shall state that the candidate has used all reasonable diligence in its  
19 preparation, and that it is true, full and explicit.”

20           **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of  
21 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court

1 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
2 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
3 shall not be affected thereby.

4 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
5 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
6 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted  
7 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
8 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have  
9 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal,  
10 which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

11 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
12 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 5/13/2021

Date: 5-13-21 Introduced by: Ed Propst  
Rep. Edwin K. Propst

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:  
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House Legal Counsel

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