

HOUSE No. 2979

By Mr. Cerasoli of Quincy, petition of Robert A. Cerasoli relative to regulating the disposition of residual campaign funds. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT REGULATING THE DISPOSITION OF RESIDUAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The eleventh paragraph of subsection h of section
2 eighteen of chapter fifty-five of the General Laws is hereby
3 amended by striking out said paragraph in its entirety and substi-
4 tuting in place thereof the following new paragraph: —

5 “In addition, the report required to be filed on or before the tenth
6 day of January shall contain a statement detailing the intended or
7 actual disposition of any residual funds. Such residual funds shall
8 not be converted to the personal use of the candidate or any other
9 person, except as provided in this paragraph. Such residual funds
10 may be: returned to the original contributors; used to repay loans
11 or pay other debts; donated to a political committee duly consti-
12 tuted under the provisions of this chapter, provided any such
13 donations do not exceed the limits imposed by this chapter; or;
14 donated to the state election campaign fund.

1 SECTION 2. The first paragraph of section 25 of chapter fifty-
2 five of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out said
3 paragraph in its entirety and substituting in place thereof the
4 following new paragraph: —

5 “The director shall retain all statements and reports filed with his
6 office under the provisions of this chapter until the term of the
7 office the candidate is seeking has ended provided that the ending

8 balance on his or her most recent statement shows no residual
9 funds and no remaining deficit. In the case of a candidate or
10 authorized campaign committee that reports an ending balance of
11 other than 'O', the director shall retain all statements and reports
12 and shall require additional annual reports to be filed on the 10th
13 day of January until such a time that the candidate or authorized
14 campaign committee reports an ending balance of 'O'. In the case
15 of committees other than those authorized by a candidate, the
16 director shall retain all required statements and reports for a period
17 of four years."

1 SECTION 3. The tenth paragraph of section two of chapter
2 fifty-five of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out
3 said paragraph in its entirety and substituting in place thereof the
4 following new paragraph: —

5 The candidate shall preserve all receipted bills and accounts
6 required to be kept by this section until the balance in the campaign
7 account to which said records apply is reduced to zero and the
8 account is closed but in any event at least until the term of the office
9 the candidate is seeking has ended.