Bill as Introduced

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HB 391 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0475 10/06

HOUSE BILL	391
AN ACT	increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.
SPONSORS:	Rep. Edwards, Rock. 4
COMMITTEE:	Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill increases the dollar threshold for reporting by political committees.

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Explanation:Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics.**Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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HB 391 - AS INTRODUCED

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Reporting by Political Committee. Amend RSA 664:6, I to read as follows:

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I. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures exceed \$500 shall file with the 2 secretary of state an itemized statement in the form prescribed by the secretary of state, signed by 3 its chairman and treasurer showing each of its receipts exceeding [\$25] \$100 with the full name and 4 postal address of the contributor in alphabetical order and the amount of the contribution, the date it 5 was received, and the aggregate total for each election for each contributor of over \$100. Statements 6 shall be filed not later than the first Wednesday in June and December after the state general 7election and before the filing deadline established in RSA 655:14, after which statements shall be 8 filed no later than the Wednesday 12 weeks immediately preceding a primary election, before 5 9 o'clock in the afternoon, and shall cover the period from the day of the committee registration up to 10and including the Monday before the statement is due. All receipts of [\$25] \$100 or under shall 11 appear on the statements as unitemized receipts. Any listing that exceeds an individual's aggregate 12total of \$100 for each election shall be accompanied by the contributor's occupation including official 13 job title, the name of the contributor's employer, and the city or town of the contributor's principal 14 place of business, if any. The statement shall also show each committee expenditure exceeding [\$25] 15\$100 with the full name and postal address of the payee or promise of payment, the date paid or 16 obligated, and the election for which the expenditure was made, with the specific nature and amount 17of each expenditure since the date of the registration. 18

19 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

05/27/2021 1683s

2021 SESSION

21-0475 10/06

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HOUSE BILL 391

AN ACT establishing a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

SPONSORS: Rep. Edwards, Rock. 4

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

Explanation:Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT establishing a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1	1 New Section; Commission on Campaign Finance Laws. Amend RSA 664 by inserting after
2	section 5-c the following new section:
3	664:5-d Commission Established. There is established a commission to review and make
4	recommendations on campaign finance laws of the state of New Hampshire.
5	I. The members of the commission shall be as follows:
6	(a) Two members of the senate election law and municipal affairs committee, one from
7	the majority appointed by the president of the senate and one from the minority nominated by the
8	senate minority leader and appointed by the president of the senate.
9	(b) Three members of the house of representatives election law committee, 2 from the
10	majority appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one from the minority
11	nominated by the minority leader of the house of representatives and appointed by the speaker of
12	the house of representatives.
13	(c) The attorney general, or designee.
14	(d) The secretary of state, or designee.
15	II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
16	attending to the duties of the commission.
:17	III. The commission shall, during at least one of its meetings, seek comment from
18	individuals representing the 2 major political parties regarding their concerns and/or issues with
19	existing campaign finance laws.
20	IV. The commission shall solicit input and receive public testimony from any person or
21	independent organizations that participate in the election process.
22	V. The commission shall review and make specific recommendations on the following items:
23	(a) Existing campaign finance laws and any inconsistencies that may exist therein.
24	(b) Determining whether state campaign finance laws differ from current federal
25	campaign finance laws.
26	(c) Making legislative recommendations to streamline and improve the current process
27	in an effort to balance transparency and reporting requirements for both candidates and political
28	committees.
29	(d) Providing direction and clarity for those committees that have local reporting
30	requirements in addition to the state reporting requirements.

HB 391 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 2 -

1 VI. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the 2 members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named senate member. 3 The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. 4 Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

5 VII. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed 6 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate 7 election law and municipal affairs committee, and the house election law committee on or before 8 June 1, 2022. The report shall describe the activities and findings of the commission and 9 recommendations for proposed legislation and rulemaking by relevant agencies.

10 2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 664:5-d, relative to the commission to review and make 11 recommendations on campaign finance laws, is repealed.

12 3 Effective Date.

13 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 1, 2022.

14 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendments

Amendment to HB 391

1	Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:
2	
3 4 5	AN ACT establishing a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.
6 7 `	Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:
8	1 New Section; Commission on Campaign Finance Laws. Amend RSA 664 by inserting after
9	section 5-c the following new section:
10	664:5-d Commission Established. There is established a commission to review and make
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15	senate minority leader and appointed by the president of the senate.
16	(b) Three members of the house of representatives election law committee, 2 from the
17	majority appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one from the minority
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19	the house of representatives.
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26	existing campaign finance laws.
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28	independent organizations that participate in the election process.
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31	(b) Determining whether state campaign finance laws differ from current federal
32	campaign finance laws.

Amendment to HB 391 - Page 2 -

1 (c) Making legislative recommendations to streamline and improve the current process 2 in an effort to increase transparency and ease of reporting for both candidates and political 3 committees.

4

(d) Providing direction and clarity for those committees that have local reporting requirements in addition to the state reporting requirements.

5 6

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The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section.
Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

10 VII. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed 11 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate 12 election law and municipal affairs committee, and the house election law committee on or before 13 June 1, 2022. The report shall describe the activities and findings of the commission and 14 recommendations for proposed legislation and rulemaking-by relevant agencies.

15 2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 664:5-d, relative to the commission to review and make 16 recommendations on campaign finance laws, is repealed.

- 17 3 Effective Date.
- 18 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 1, 2022.
- 19 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

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Amendment to HB 391

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4

(d) Providing direction and clarity for those committees that have local reporting requirements in addition to the state reporting requirements.

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6 VI. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the 7 members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named senate member. 8 The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. 9 Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

10 VII. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed 11 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate 12 election law and municipal affairs committee, and the house election law committee on or before 13 June 1, 2022. The report shall describe the activities and findings of the commission and 14 recommendations for proposed legislation and rulemaking by relevant agencies.

15 2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 664:5-d, relative to the commission to review and make 16 recommendations on campaign finance laws, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 1, 2022.

19 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2021-1683s

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen Ruth Ward, Member Sen Donna Soucy, Member Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: May 4, 2021

HEARINGS

	Mono	uy 05/10/2021	
Election L	aw and Muni	pal Affairs REMOTE 9:00 a.m.	
9:00 a.m.	HB 555	relative to prisoners' voting rights.	
9:15 a.m.	HB 391	increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.	
9:30 a.m.	HB 326	requiring town and city clerks to make electronic lists of persons v have requested, been mailed, or returned absentee ballots availab candidates upon request.	
9:45 a.m.	HB 292	relative to the absentee ballot application process.	

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/91867580410

2. To listen via telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833

3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: 16465588656, 91867580410# or 13017158592, 91867580410#

4. Webinar ID: <u>918 6758 0410</u>

5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA

6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: <u>remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us</u> or call (603-271-6931).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors: • HB 555 Rep. Andrew Bouldin Rep. Nutting-Wong Rep. Bouchard Rep. Kenney Rep. Amanda Bouldin HB 391 Rep. Edwards HB 326 Rep. Berry Rep. T. Smith Rep. O'Hara HB 292 Rep. Hill Rep. Silber Rep. Gunski Rep. Rice

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

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Rep. Pearl

James P. Gray

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Rep. Rouillard

Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 391, increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.

Hearing Date: May 10, 2021

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill increases the dollar threshold for reporting by political committees.

Sponsors: Rep. Edwards

Who supports the bill: Joseph Bagshaw

Who opposes the bill: Brian Beihl, John Hurley, James Serrell, William Thomas, Margaret Caudill Slosberg, Sally Embley, Stephanie Osborne, Susan Bruce, Karen Johnson, Bob Perry, Jan Jacome, William Secord, Ann Podlipny, Marcia King, Charles King, Raymond Waterman, Patricia Waterman, Judy Krassowski, Doreen Desmarais, Betsey Phillips, Susan Willoughby, Sue Ford, Linda Bundy, David Holt, Joanne Emus, Judith Ackerson, Kenneth Ackerson, Joanne Casino, Richard Slosberg, Susan Richman, Corinne Dodge

Who is neutral on the bill: David Scanlan

Summary of testimony presented in support:

*Senator Birdsell introduced the bill for the Prime Sponsor Representative Jess Edwards

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Brian Biehl – Open Democracy Action

- When he goes to town meeting in Alton and is recognized to speak on a warrant article, he must state his full name and my address.
- This process has them stand and be recognized to help citizens know who is exercising his or her right to free speech, and to help everyone understand the motivation for the testimony.
- He believes we have to have the courage to stand up and be recognized.
- HB 391 is proposing to raise the threshold for reporting a campaign contribution from \$25.00 to \$100.00.
- He questioned if this is because it is too much work and costs too much to record the full name and postal address of the contributor, the amount of the contribution, and the date it was received for the public to see who is contributing to the campaigns of their legislators.

That seems like a small price to pay for the benefit of transparency.

- Recently, the transparency of our election system has been called into question.
- We have been told that there must be more access for partisan observers, more audits of the election equipment, and more documents included with an absentee ballot.
- If HB 391 passes, for contributions under \$100, we won't know who is donating, what state they're from, their organization, or what special interest they represent.
- A very conceivable loophole scenario is 100 out-of-state union members or corporate employees each contributing \$99.00 to support a candidate who might be able to influence future legislation.
- He believes a dollar here and a dollar there very quickly leads to Dark Money.
- If people really care about election integrity, the threshold for reported contributions should stay at \$25.00, have them notarized, and sent in with a copy of a photo ID.
- The U.S. Supreme Court says that these contributions are free speech and also spoke 8-1 for stronger disclosure laws, which NH has not implemented.
- New Hampshire voters have a right to know who is contributing to its legislators in the name of "free speech," no matter how large or small their contribution may be.
- Senator Gray asked if he knows when the \$25 limit was set.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that he knows it was long ago but does not know how far back.
- Senator Gray asked if he would believe that it was in 1997.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that sounds reasonable.
- Senator Gray asked if he knew what the number would be if we account for inflation.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that he does not but no matter how small or large the contribution is, the public has the right to know what that is. He believes we need to show the public who is contributing to the campaigns.
- Senator Gray asked if he believes recording the name, address, position, employer, etc. has a chilling effect on contributions.
 - Mr. Beihl replied by asking if that matters. He added that if it does have a chilling affect on transactions that would be very telling.
- Senator Gray asked if he believes that \$100 a year is an adequate salary for a legislator.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that in his opinion legislators should receive an adequate salary.
- Senator Gray asked if he believes it was an adequate salary in the 1890s when it was first enacted.
 - Mr. Beihl replied yes, he could believe that.
- Senator Gray commented that at some point if you have inflation in order to be relative to what it was at any particular time then that would have to increase and asked him to comment.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that he believes that this leaves them open to the funneling of Dark Money. Where people would organize union members or corporate employees to flood our system with money that is unaccountable. He added that NH runs the risk of opening pandoras box of unaccountable money coming into the system.
- Senator Ward asked how would he handle cash contributions.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that in this case you would have to record the name and position and mailing address and company as a cash contribution.
- Senator Ward commented that sometimes that is not possible. When a candidate gets an envelope with a ten or twenty dollar bill there is no way to know who put that money in. They just add it to their incoming contributions.
 - Mr. Beihl replied that was true and in this case the current threshold in \$25 and they would not have to record that amount. The statute does not account for cash that is over the \$25 threshold.

Neutral Information Presented:

David Scanlan – Deputy Secretary of State

- They do not take a position on HB 391
- He would like to point out that using \$100 is confusing this part of the statute.
- In the first portion it talks about information needed with any contribution exceeding \$100 and then in line 12 of the bill it adds more information.
- A person under this legislation that contributes \$100 would have to provide all of that information and if that is the case it should be mentioned in the beginning of the statute.
- The other option is to raise the aggregate to something above \$100 which would also take care of any confusion.

TJM Date Hearing Report completed: May 14, 2021 Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB391 on 2021 Support: 1 Oppose: 32 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 1

<u>Name</u>	Email Address	Phone	<u>Title</u>	Representing	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifing</u>	5
Beihl, Brian	brian@opendemocracy.me	603-620-8300	A Lobbyist	Open Democracy Action	Oppose	Yes	5
Hurley, John	jrhurjd@aol.com	603,287.8913	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Serrell, James J.	imjjserrell@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Thomas, William	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Caudill Slosberg, Margaret	margaretcs08@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Embley, Sally	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Osborne, Stephanie	Osbornestephanie@me.com	238-3141	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Johnson, Karen	Gram99karen@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Perry, Bob	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Jacome, Jan	janjake22@gmail.com	603.234.3910	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Secord, William	wrsecord@live.com	603-286-0331	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Podlipny, Ann	apodlipny57@comcast.net	603.370.1914	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
King, Marcia	mchking@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
King, Charles	mchking@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Waterman, Raymond	prwaterman@aol.com	16034243692	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Waterman, Patricia	prwaterman@aol.com	16033450644	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Krassowski, Judy	info@judykrassowski.com	603.315.9440	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Desmarais, Doreen	doreend@netzero.net	603.608.6211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Phillips, Betsey	bphill36@gmail.com	603.869.0127	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Willoughby, Susan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Ford, Sue	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Bagshaw, Joseph	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5
Bundy, Linda	n_bundy@mcttelecom.com	603 588 2254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Holt, David	davholt@aol.com	603.781.8649	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Emus, Joanne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Ackerson, Judith	ackerjack45@gmail.com	603.369.0574	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Ackerson, Kenneth	ken.ackerson14@gmail.com	603.273.1593	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Yacopucci, william	wdycpp@gmail.com	603.707.2211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Casino, Joanne	joannecasino@comcast.net	603.746.3491	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Slosberg, Richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	603.343.6314	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
Dodge, corinne	corinnedodge@hotmail.com	16034325759	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5
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Testimony

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Tricia Melillo

From: Sent: To: Subject: Susan Richman <susan7richman@gmail.com> Sunday, May 16, 2021 5:03 PM Tricia Melillo Reject HB 292 & HB 391

Dear Senator Melillo,

Thank you for your service to New Hampshire through this unprecedented and challenging year.

I write you now to express concerns over two bills, HB292 and HB391, that are contrary to the NH promise to uphold our liberties.

Both my husband and my daughter would be harmed by HB292. My daughter spends much of her year in Germany, but remains a committed United States citizen. She relies on absentee ballots, and has been able to vote absentee since she went off to college. This bill puts her access to absentee voting in jeopardy, particularly since the mail between Germany and the U.S. this past year has become unrealiable. My husband is blind; he does not have a driver's license, and his signature is never the same and never decipherable. Does that mean there is now a fee – going to a notary – for our right to vote when we leave Durham to visit our grandchildren? That sounds like we're enacting a poll tax.

I often hear that NH is an aging state. We hope that our young people will decide to stay here for their adult lives. We send a hostile message to our young people, when we make it challenging to vote. Similarly, businesses will not want to locate in the Granite State, if we set up stumbling stones for people who intend to exercise their right to vote. Look at the negative statements from Delta and Coca-Cola in response to Georgia's voter restrictions.

Finally, voters are discouraged by the influence of money on our politicians. We keep their trust – and the trust of people and businesses eyeing NH as a potential home – when we insist that donations over \$25 be reported.

I was an election official in November2020 and was very proud of the integrity of the process and the large turnout. I see no reason to "fix" voting (to make it harder!!) when our Governor and Secretary of State both praised the excellence of our "gold standard" voting system. So please vote HB292 as INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. What does need to be fixed is money in politics, so please also vote HB391 as INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication.

Yours,

Susan Richman 16 Cowell Drive Durham, NH 03824 603-868-2758

Tricia Melillo

From:	Harriet DiCicco <hfckd1@gmail.com></hfckd1@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:33 PM
То:	James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia
	Melillo
Subject:	HB 292 and HB 391

Dear Members of the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

I urge you to recommend an ITL action on HB 292 and HB 391.

We did not have an issue with election fraud in New Hampshire and yet we have bill after bill after bill all based on that assumption.

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We need to encourage people to exercise their freedom to vote and not put obstacles in their way. A democracy needs to be grounded in an informed and active citizenry.

HB 292 adds more steps for those needing to vote absentee. Steps that are a hardship for the disabled, the elderly, college students and those who escape the winter and move to a sunnier climate.

HB 391 changes the bar for reporting campaign contributions. The \$25 current amount is fine. It sheds light on who is supporting what candidates. If we start raising the amount to \$100 (and then what will be the next limit in future years), there is less opportunity for oversight and to know exactly where campaign funds are coming from. Please vote ITL on both these bills.

Thank you.

Harriet DiCicco

Hancock



Testimony for NH Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs May 10, 2021, Opposing HB 391 By Brian Beihl, Deputy Director, Open Democracy Action

Good Morning, Senator Gray, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Beihl, Deputy Director of Open Democracy Action, a nonpartisan, pro-voter organization which works on protecting the freedom to vote, fair redistricting, and, as we are today, campaign finance reform. I reside in Alton Bay, NH, and I speak to you in opposition of HB 391.

When I go to town meeting in Alton and I am recognized to speak on a warrant article, I must state my full name and my address. This is a tradition that we've had from the beginning of the republic. Our process has us stand and be recognized to help our citizens know who is exercising his or her right to free speech, and to help us understand the motivation for their testimony.

It's a great American tradition that we do this at town meeting, whether we work in the mill, or whether we own the mill. We have to have the courage to stand up and be recognized.

HB 391 is proposing to raise the threshold for reporting a campaign contribution from \$25.00 to \$100.00. Why? Because, evidently, it's too much work and costs too much to record the full name and postal address of the contributor, the amount of the contribution, and the date it was received for the public to see who is contributing to the campaigns of their legislators. That, seems like a small price to pay for transparency.

As we've heard in testimony in recent months, the transparency of our election system has been called into question. We're told that there must be more access for partisan observers, more audits of the election equipment, and more documents included with an absentee ballot. Now, the reporting for a campaign contribution just went up 400%. If HB 391 passes, for contributions under \$100, we won't know who is donating, what state they're from, their organization, and what special interest they represent.

A very conceivable loophole scenario is 100 out-of-state union members or corporate employees each contributing \$99.00 to support a candidate who might be able to influence future legislation. A dollar here and a dollar there and pretty soon you're talking Dark Money. If we really care about election integrity, we should leave the threshold for reported contributions at \$25.00, have them notarized, and sent in with a copy of a photo ID.

The U.S. Supreme Court says that these contributions are free speech. But also spoke 8-1 for stronger disclosure laws, which NH has not implemented. This bill takes it the wrong way. But New Hampshire voters also have a right to know who is contributing to its legislators in the name of "free speech," no matter how large or small their contribution may be.

Please support election integrity by making sure we know who campaign contributors are, and vote HB 391 as inexpedient to legislate.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today, and for your support of New Hampshire voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Beihl, Deputy Director Open Democracy Action

Voting Sheets

Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD 2021 Session

Hearing date: $5/17$ Executive Session date: $5/17$ ay Motion of: OTP Vote: Committee Member Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair X Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair X Sen. Soucy X Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair X Sen. Soucy X Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair X Sen. Perkins-Kwoka X Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair X Sen. Soucy X Sen. Soucy X Sen. Soucy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Bill HB 39</th> <th>1 </th>				Bill HB 39	1
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Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, May 24, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred HB 391

AN ACT

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increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1683s

Senator Donna Soucy For the Committee

This bill as amended will establish a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws. The purpose of this Commission is to determine how New Hampshire can streamline the current process in order to balance transparency and reporting requirements for both candidates and political committees. The Commission will consult with members of both major political parties and receive testimony from any independent election organization and the public.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

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General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB391

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: (New Title) establishing a commission to review and make recommendations on campaign finance laws.

Official Docket of HB391.:

Date	Body	Description
1/10/2021	Н	Introduced (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Election Law HJ 2 P. 45
1/27/2021	н	Public Hearing: 02/05/2021 01:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://zoom.us/j/93640014012 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
2/3/2021	н	Executive Session: 02/12/2021 01:30 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://zoom.us/j/95709405955
2/17/2021	Н	Committee Report: Ought to Pass (Vote 11-9; RC) HC 12 P. 29
2/25/2021	Н	Special Order to Regular Calendar of next Session day Without Objection HJ 4 P. 46
4/8/2021	Н	Ought to Pass: MA RC 202-167 04/08/2021 HJ 6 P. 61
4/13/2021	S	Introduced 04/08/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 12
5/4/2021	S	Remote Hearing: 05/10/2021, 09:15 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; SC 23
5/25/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021-1683s , 05/27/2021; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 25A
5/27/2021	S	Committee Amendment #2021-1683s , AA, VV; 05/27/2021; SJ 17
5/27/2021	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2021-1683s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/27/2021; SJ 17
6/10/2021	Н	House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment 2021-1683s (Rep. B. Griffin): MA DV 192-166 06/10/2021

NH House	NH Senate

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Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: <u>HB_391</u>

Senate Committee: <u>ELMA</u>

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

λ	Final docket found on Bill Status
<u>Bill H</u>	earing Documents: {Legislative Aides}
\mathbf{X}	Bill version as it came to the committee
X	All Calendar Notices
XXXX	Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
X	Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
λ	Hearing Report
Ø	Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office
<u>Comn</u>	nittee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}
All am	endments considered in committee (including those not adopted):
	X - amendment # 16405 X - amendment # 16835
	amendment # amendment #
Ъ.	Executive Session Sheet
X	Committee Report
<u>Floor</u>	Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}
All floo	or amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):
	amendment # amendment #
	amendment # amendment #
Post F	loor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}
	Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

____ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

_____ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

as amended by the senate _____ as amended by the house

____ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Committee Aide Senate Clerk's Office

Date