

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16
2 BY SHOULTZ, WITT, JOCHUM, BURTA, SCHERRMAN,
3 WARNSTADT, COHOON, BELL, HUSER, O'BRIEN, DOTZLER,
4 LARKIN, WHITEAD, MUNDIE, REYNOLDS-KNIGHT, CONNORS,
5 RICHARDSON, FORD, FREVERT, CHAPMAN, FOEGE, FAJCK,
6 BERNAU, WISE, CATALDO, KREIMAN, CHIODO, MASCHER,
7 BURNETT, MURPHY, KOENIGS, BRAND, DREES, TAYLOR,
8 MAY, FALLON, KINZER, OSTERHAUS, WEIGEL, DODERER,
9 THOMAS, MERTZ, MYERS, MORELAND, SCHRADER, and HOLVECK
10 A Concurrent Resolution relating to the formation of a
11 temporary bipartisan commission to recommend reforms
12 in the laws relating to the financing of political
13 campaigns.

14 WHEREAS, an estimated record of \$2.7 billion was
15 spent on political advertising in the 1996 elections;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, recent polls reveal that a majority of
18 Americans believe that the current system of campaign
19 finance must be reformed; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly establish
22 a Campaign Finance Reform Commission (Commission) to
23 study the laws relating to the financing of elections
24 for office and to recommend reforms in those laws,
25 according to the following:

26 1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.

27 a. Appointment. The Commission shall be composed
28 of 15 members, appointed as follows:

29 (1) Three members shall be appointed by the
30 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom

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1 shall be the chair of the house committee on state
2 government, and the other two shall be members of the
3 public.

4 (2) Three members shall be appointed by the
5 minority leader of the house of representatives, one
6 of whom shall be the ranking minority member of the
7 house committee on state government, and the other two
8 shall be members of the public.

9 (3) Three members shall be appointed by the
10 majority leader of the senate, one of whom shall be
11 the chair of the senate committee on state government,
12 and the other two shall be members of the public.

13 (4) Three members shall be appointed by the
14 minority leader of the senate, one of whom shall be
15 the ranking minority member of the senate committee on
16 state government, and the other two shall be members
17 of the public.

18 (5) Three members shall be the state chairs of
19 each of the political parties, as defined under Code
20 section 43.2.

21 b. Selection Criteria. Persons making
22 appointments shall consult with one another to ensure
23 that the Commission is balanced by gender in
24 accordance with section 69.16A.

25 c. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair. The
26 Commission shall select a Chair and Vice-Chair from
27 among its members at the first meeting of the
28 Commission.

29 d. Terms. The members of the Commission shall
30 serve for the life of the Commission.

1 e. Vacancies. A vacancy in the Commission shall
2 be filled in the manner in which the original
3 appointment was made.

4 f. Compensation. Members of the Commission shall
5 be paid their necessary travel and actual expenses
6 incurred in attending Commission meetings.

7 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

8 a. Hearings. The Commission may hold hearings
9 which shall be open and announced in advance to the
10 public, take testimony, and receive evidence as the
11 Commission considers appropriate.

12 b. Quorum. Eight members of the commission shall
13 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
14 hearings.

15 c. Report. Not later than January 1, 1998, the
16 Commission shall submit to the General Assembly a
17 report of the activities and findings of the
18 Commission, together with a draft of legislation
19 recommended by the Commission to reform the laws
20 regarding the financing of political campaigns. The
21 Commission may utilize the services of the Legislative
22 Service Bureau in formulating a draft of legislation.

23 d. Matters to Be Considered. In holding hearings
24 and preparing the report required under paragraph "c",
25 the Commission shall consider proposed reform
26 legislation before the United States Congress, reform
27 legislation passed by Maine and other states, and
28 reform proposals of public interest organizations.
29 The Commission may secure directly from any department
30 or agency such information as the Commission considers

1 necessary, and the department or agency shall promptly
2 furnish such information to the Commission.

3 e. Staff. The Commission shall retain an
4 independent consultant to provide technical assistance
5 and staffing associated with the duties of the
6 Commission.

7 Additional assistance shall be provided to the
8 Commission by the central nonpartisan legislative
9 staff bureaus.

10 f. Funding. The Legislative Council may expend up
11 to \$50,000 from the appropriation in Code section 2.12
12 to be used for the duties of the Commission.

13 3. TERMINATION.

14 The Commission shall cease to exist two months
15 after the submission of its report.

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