LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

HB195

Bill as Introduced

HB 195 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Mar2023... 0986h

2023 SESSION

23-0493
08/04

HOUSE BILL ***195***

AN ACT relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

SPONSORS: Rep. Lane, Merr. 16

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the definition of political advocacy organization for purposes of political expenditure and contribution 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 195 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Mar2023... 0986h

23-0493
08/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

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

1 Political Action Committee; Definitions. RSA 664:2, XXII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

XXII. "Political advocacy organization" means any entity that makes expenditures of $2,500 or more in a calendar year for communication that is functionally equivalent to express advocacy such that, when taken as a whole, such communication is likely to be interpreted, all or in part, by a reasonable person as advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or candidates, or the success or defeat of a measure or measures, taking into account whether the communication involved mentions a candidacy, a political party, or takes a position on a candidate's character, qualifications, or fitness for office.

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

HB 195 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

22Mar2023... 0986h

2023 SESSION

23-0493
08/04

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

CHAPTER 118
HB 195 - FINAL VERSION

22Mar2023... 0986h

2023 SESSION

23-0493
08/04

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Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
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CHAPTER 118
HB 195 - FINAL VERSION

22Mar2023... 0986h

23-0493
08/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

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118:1 Political Action Committee; Definitions. RSA 664:2, XXII is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

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118:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 30, 2023
Effective Date: August 29, 2023

Committee Minutes

AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Keith Murphy, Vice Chair
Sen Daryl Abbas, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: April 4, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday	04/11/2023

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	Legislative Office Building 103	9:15 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

9:15 a.m.	**HB 154**	relative to the adoption of public health ordinances by municipalities.
9:30 a.m.	**HB 197-LOCAL**	relative to the proration of property tax exemptions.
9:45 a.m.	**HB 195**	relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.
10:00 a.m.	**HB 244**	relative to the printing of the election day checklist.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

HB 154
Rep. J. Harvey-Bolia, Rep. Aron, Rep. Post, Rep. Pauer

HB 197-LOCAL
Rep. Maggiore, Rep. Ulery

HB 195
Rep. Lane

HB 244
Rep. Kuttab, Rep. K. Perez, Rep. Sweeney, Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien
Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rep. Lynn

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 195, relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

Hearing Date: April 11, 2023

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Murphy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators Abbas and Soucy

Bill Analysis: This bill modifies the definition of political advocacy organization for purposes of political expenditure and contribution laws.

Sponsors:
Rep. Lane

Who supports the bill: Rep. Timothy Horrigan, Rep. Corinne Cascadden, Olivia Zink, Bob Perry, Sara Lobdell – Open Democracy, Hayden Smith, Claire Naylor, Wayne Casey, LaDonna Casey, David Heller, John Wallace, Susan Orkin, Anne Huberman, Doreen Desmarais, Miriam Cahill-Yeaton, Susan Richman, Susan Liebowitz, Diane Andrews, Elizabeth Lurie, Christine Alexander, Sandy Steele, Dr. Gail Kinney, Geri Davidson, Susan Moore, Dorothea Vecchiotti, Sherrill Nixon, Amy Antonucci, Fawn Gaudet, Ellis Robinson, Loretta Laurenitis, Janet Altobello, Susan Taylor, Camilla Lockwood, Lois Cote, Sue Nastasi, Abigail Meyer, Linda Bundy

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith, Mike Rollo

Who is neutral on the bill: Kathleen Reardon - NH Center for Nonprofits

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Perkins Kwoka

- The intent of this bill is to strengthen disclosure in New Hampshire.
- The primary goal is to drop the threshold for political advocacy organizations to disclose expenditures from the current level of $5,000 down to $2,500.
- This is to make sure there is transparency available to the voters.
- The word "only" is removed from the statute in response to a 2015 opinion from the Attorney General that it interfered with their ability to enforce the law.

Bob Perry

- It is sound policy that our campaign laws effectively prevent untraceable campaign contributions meant to influence our elections and block contributions meant to influence policy from foreign countries.
- Current law related to political advocacy does not address either issue.
- NH requires it's candidates to register with the state and provide full disclosure of every contribution over $200.
- He believes this is sound policy for political advocacy organizations as well.

- The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed claims of donor reprisals when it concluded that "Citizens United had been disclosing it's donors for years and has had no instance of retaliation."
- The $2,500 figure in this legislation takes into account that in House races, an expenditure of $2,500 can have a significant impact on the outcome.
- He believes we have been warned for years about money in politics and its corrosive effect on Democracy.
- A healthy Democracy cannot co-exist in the presence of untraceable sources of money influencing our vote.
- He gave examples of political advertising whose source was not disclosed to the voter.

Sara Lobdell – Open Democracy

- HB 195 strengthens NH's disclosure laws for political advocacy organizations.
- Transparency is critical to a strong democracy.
- Voters deserve to know who is spending money to influence their opinions and votes.
- In 2019, a similar bill, SB 106, was passed in the Senate 24-0 and in the House Election Law Committee but it did not make it further.
- This legislation will strengthen the integrity of political debate within New Hampshire and ensure accountability within the election process.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented:

Kathleen Reardon – NH Center for Non-Profits

- They have a concern that taking the word "only" out of the legislation might draw in organizations that provide report cards or other very appropriate, educational information about advocacy.
- Non-profits (501:3C) do not engage in activities to elect or endorse candidates so most of this would not apply to them.
- They did have some questions and were told by legal counsel that taking the word "only" out would be problematic.
- The way that the expenditures are defined in the statute does provide clarity for non-profits.
- She asked the Committee when they are considering this legislation, to ensure that non-profits retain their ability to advocate and educate around issues that are important to them.
- Senator Gray asked if she would like to provide the Committee with different language that would take care of the word " only" problem.
    - Ms. Reardon replied that she believes the current expenditure language may take care of it but she will review it.

TJM
Date Hearing Report completed: April 14, 2023

Speakers

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: April 11, 2023 **Time:** 9:45 a.m.

HB 195 **An Act** relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

PRIME: Representative Lane

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

Name/Representing	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Mike Rollo American Cancer Society	☐	☒		☐	☒
Olivia Zink Open Democracy Action	☒	☐		☐	☐
Rep. Timothy Horrigan Strafford 4	☒	☐		☐	☒
Kathleen Reardon NH Center for Nonprofits	☐	☐		☒	☐
Jodi Perry	☒	☐		☒	☐
Sara Lowell Open Democracy	☒	☐		☒	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
	☐	☐		☐	☐
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Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB195 on 202

Support: 34 Oppose: 1

Name	Title	Representing	Position
Smith, Julie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Smith, Hayden	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Youth Movement	Support
Naylor, Claire	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Casey, Wayne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Casey, LaDonna	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Heller, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Wallace, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Orkin, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Huberman, Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Desmarais, Doreen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cahill-Yeaton, Miriam	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Richman, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Liebowitz, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Andrews, Diane	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Lurie, Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Alexander, Christine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Steel, Sandy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Davidson, Geri	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Moore, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Vecchiotti, Dorothea	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Nixon, Sherrill	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Antonucci, Amy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Gaudet, Fawn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cascadden, Rep.Corinne	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Robinson, Ellis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Laurenitis, Loretta	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Altobello, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Taylor, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Taylor, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Lockwood, Camilla	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cote, Lois	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Nastasi, Sue	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Meyer, Abigail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Bundy, Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Testimony

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB 195

April 11, 2023

Chairman Gray and Members of Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs,

My name is Sara Lobdell, I am a voter in Keene and Program Coordinator of Open Democracy. We are a non-partisan, non-profit representing 36,000 voters across NH. I am submitting testimony in support of HB195 - relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

HB195 strengthens NH's disclosure laws for political advocacy organizations. Transparency is critical to a strong democracy, and voters deserve to know who is spending money to influence their opinions and votes. HB195 drops the threshold for definition as a political advocacy organization from the current threshold of $5000 in expenditures to $2500. Many NH elections, especially in the House, are won with expenditures in the hundreds, rather than thousands, of dollars. Requiring political advocacy organizations to disclose after $2500 spent shines a brighter light on money in politics that is currently secret.

Additional history:

Ten years ago, Senator Bradley passed bipartisan legislation that would require groups spending money to register and report. If you are interested in the history, listen to the NHPR exchange program here:
https://www.nhpr.org/the-exchange/2013-04-09/the-return-of-campaign-finance-reform

In 2019, a very similar bill, SB 106, was passed in the Senate 24-0 and in the House Election Law Committee 20-0, but it didn't make it over the finish line.

HB195 will strengthen the integrity of political debate within New Hampshire and ensure accountability within the election process. Please vote Ought to Pass on HB 195.

Sincerely,
Sara Lobdell
Program Coordinator
Open Democracy, 4 Park St, #301
Concord, NH 03301 603-715-8197

MNE

HB 195 – relative to the definition of political advocacy organization
Room 103 LOB
Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 9:45 A.M.
Time: 3:45

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee:

I speak in support of HB 195:

It would seem to be sound policy for our Republic that our campaign finance laws effectively prevent untraceable campaign contributions meant to influence our elections, and just as effectively block all campaign contributions meant to influence U.S. elections that originate from foreign countries. Current law related to political advocacy organizations seems to address neither.

The State of New Hampshire requires its candidates for office to register with the state, and provide the following information: Full name of contributors (in alphabetical order); post office address; amount of contribution; date received; aggregate contributions to date; and in the case of contributions over $200, to disclose the contributor's occupation; job title; name of employer; and city or town of principal place of business. You all know this, because you conform to the law. To those who might consider donor reprisals as sufficient reason not to require donor disclosure, I submit the NH legislature has determined that full disclosure outweighs claims of retaliation. This is sound policy as applied to state candidates, and is sound policy for political advocacy organizations. Indeed, in its ruling, the Supreme Court of the United States dismissed claims of retaliation when it concluded "Citizens United has been disclosing its donors for years and has identified no instance of harassment or retaliation." I infer from this statement that the court did not intend to prohibit the disclosure of donors.

This bill, amended by the house, and received by this committee via the consent calendar, sets a $2500 threshold for registration and reporting. This dollar figure takes into account the fact that in house races, an expenditure of $2500 can have a significant impact on outcomes.

Our laws are replete with the time and court-tested reasonable-person standard. This bill utilizes this standard to determine how a reasonable person is likely to interpret a communication, whether it advocates for the support or defeat of a candidate or candidates or the success or defeat of a measure or measures, not whether it is the ONLY interpretation a reasonable person could reach.

There are now 1,000 billionaires in America, only a handful of which making contributions through organizations not disclosing their contributors, could change election outcomes anywhere in America.

We have been warned for years about money in politics and its corrosive effect on Democracy, including journalist Jane Mayer's exhaustive reporting in her 2016 book release titled, *Dark Money.* She quotes Louis Brandeis. "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

A healthy democracy cannot co-exist in the presence of untraceable sources of money influencing the most basic of our fundamental rights -- the vote - and its pathway to everything else. I urge this body, in the name of transparency, good government, and best possible policy outcomes, to support this bill, or through the power you have by amendment, to carry out its objective.

Bob Perry
Strafford

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS:

Sex may sell... but do porn shops on Main Street build strong local economies?

ASK ANDY SANBORN.

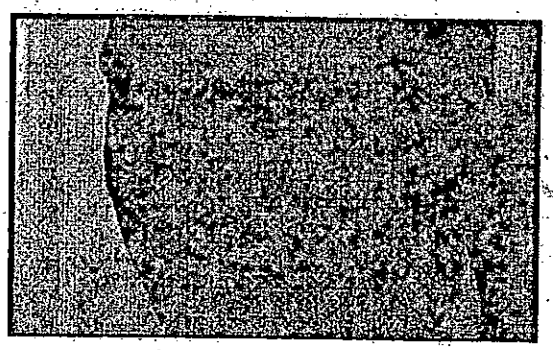
SANBORN SAYS HE'S A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESSMAN...

But before he **bankrupted** Banagan's, he paid down a personal loan and then left other businesses with **nearly $600,000 in bad debt.**

SANBORN SAYS HE'S FOR FIGHTING DRUGS AND FOR FAMILY VALUES...

But over in Keene, he's making rent money off a **"head shop"** and **sex shop** that was raided by the DEA and sells X-rated content that demeans women... on family-friendly **Main St.**

Would he promote this kind of business in Peterborough, or any other town in Senate District 9?



DON'T WE DESERVE A SENATOR WHO SAYS WHAT HE DOES AND DOES WHAT HE SAYS?

THAT'S NOT ANDY SANBORN.

For more info, see: www.allaboutandy.org

Paid for by Strong Local Economies NH

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOSEPH A. FOSTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANN M. RICE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 12, 2015

W. Gordon Allen
21 Summer Street
Antrim N.H. 03440-3608

Re: Americans for Prosperity Complaint

Dear Mr. Allen:

The letter is in response to your complaint regarding certain mailings sponsored by Americans for Prosperity (hereinafter AFP") sent in September of 2014. Your complaint alleges the following:

> Based on cost estimates exceeding $5,000. in the aggregate, for the electioneering mailings (two per candidate) that Americans for Prosperity sent to voters to defeat "clearly identified candidate(s)" (RSA 664:2, XX.) in the September 9, 2014 primary in three House Districts (opposing James E. Devine in Rockingham 4; opposing James C. Webb in Rockingham 6; and opposing Mark L. Proulx in Hillsborough 44) – with these mailed communications being "functionally equivalent to express advocacy" (RSA 664:2, XXI.) – it appears Americans for Prosperity (AFP) violated the following provisions of RSA 664:

The complaint then goes on to allege that AFP failed to register with the secretary of state as a "political advocacy organization" and subsequently failed to file "an itemized statement of receipts and expenditures" by the required deadlines.

Along with the complaint you provided copies of two mailings sent by AFP to what appears to be a residence in Sandown. The first mailing, attached here as Exhibit A-1 (front) and Exhibit A-2 (back), discusses what is alleged to be State Representative James Divine's position on the issue of "right to work." The mailing ultimately asks the reader to "[c]all State Representative James Devine at (603) 887-3569 and ask him why he supported the union bosses instead of bringing more jobs and higher wages to New Hampshire."

The second mailing, attached here as Exhibit B-1 (front) and Exhibit B-2 (back), alleges that Representative Devine will not sign AFP's pledge to oppose higher tax rates on working

families. The mailing eventually asks the reader to "[c]all State Representative James Devine at (603) 887-3569 and ask him why he won't support lower taxes and less wasteful spending."

Pivotal the question of whether AFP is required to register with the secretary of state as a "political advocacy organization," and thereafter file itemized statements of receipts and expenditures," is whether either of the subject mailings is "functionally equivalent to express advocacy." The relevant statute, RSA 664:2, XII, states in pertinent part that a communication is "functionally equivalent to express advocacy because, when taken as a whole, such communication is likely to be interpreted by a reasonable person *only* as advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or candidates or the success or defeat of a measure or measures, taking into account whether the communication involved mentions a candidacy or a political party, or takes a position on a candidate's character, qualifications, or fitness for office." (*Emphasis added*). Where the legislature included the term "only" within the statute, the subject mailings will be considered "functionally equivalent to express advocacy," if the substance of the mailings can be interpreted no other way than as advocating the election or defeat of Representative Devine.

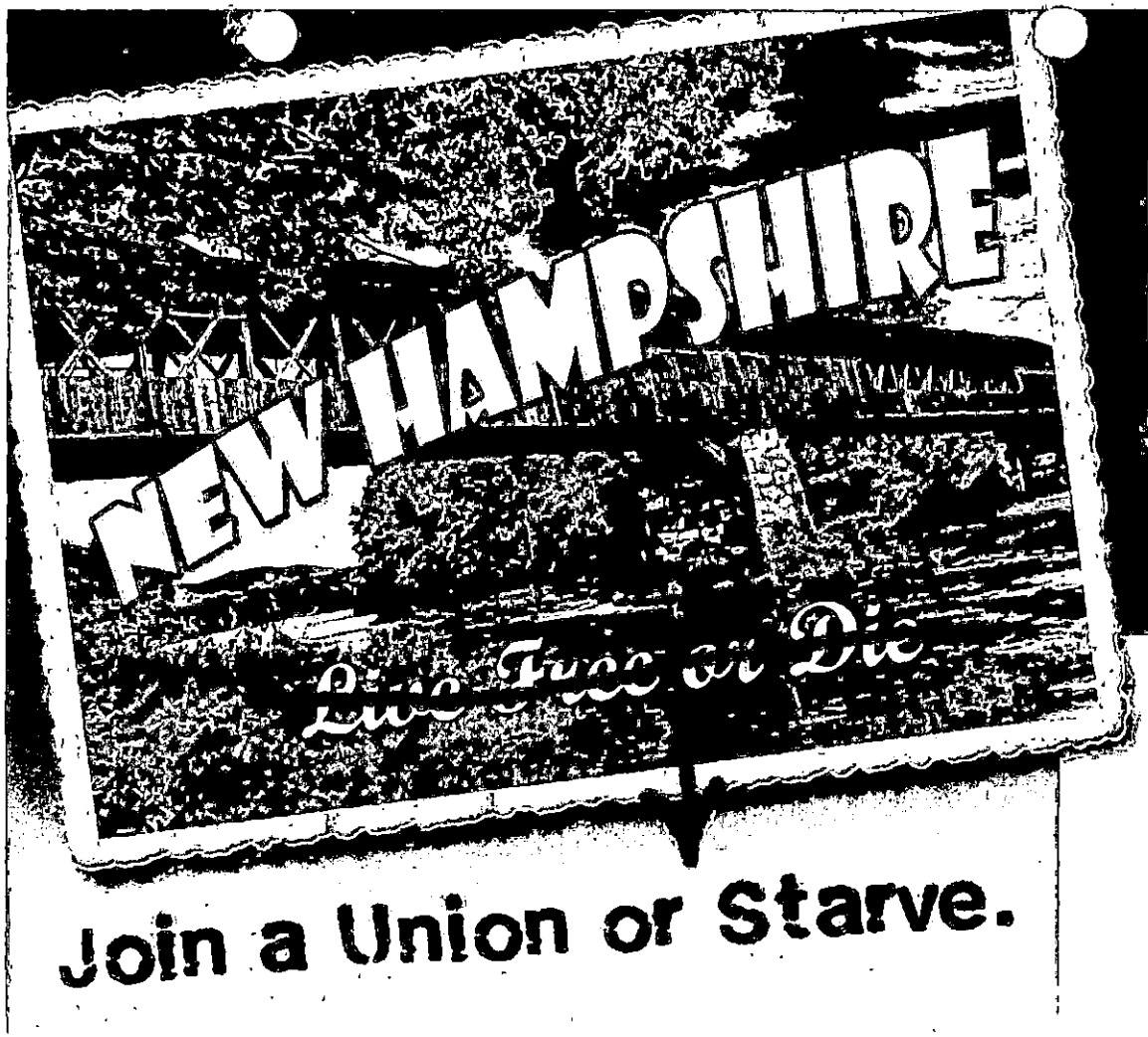
Neither mailing identifies Representative Devine as a candidate for re-election or his political party, nor do they mention either the state primary or general election. Although the mailings can be interpreted as an attack on Representative Devine's position on the specific issues of "right to work" and AFP's tax pledge to oppose higher tax rates on working families, they do not necessarily take a position as to his character, qualifications, or fitness for office. Where the mailings were received the day before the state primary election, it is possible that they could be interpreted as advocating the defeat of Representative Devine at that election, however, I do not believe that is the only likely interpretation. The mailings could just as likely be viewed as an attempt to pressure Representative Devine to bring his positions on those respective issues more in line with AFP's political ideals.

Based on the analysis above, we concluded that there is no cause to proceed with an enforcement action in this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. LaBonte
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Bureau
(603) 271-3658
Fax: (603) 223-6296



New Hampshire is changing its state motto.

Americans for Prosperity
2111 Wilson Blvd. Suite 350
Arlington, VA 22201

Presort
First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #354

**********AUTO**5-DIGIT 03101 35520

[redacted]pp
[redacted]
Manchester, NH 03104-4210

Note: This was received by Republican voters in Senator Boutin's District several days before the 2014 Primary. Other candidates received this and similar mailings at the same time, which in fact does not expressly call for a vote against Sen. Boutin and the other candidates targeted in the mailing.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) did not register as a "Political Advocacy Committee" with the secretary of state and report their expenditures on these mailings under RSA 664:2 XXII. apparently claiming that it was not "functionally equivalent" to an electioneering communication and was strictly an issue advocacy mailer – and not politicking.

In 2015, the Attorney General – responding to an official compliant filed against Americans Prosperity for not registering as a "Political Advocacy Committee" based on their large mailing of these and other flyers costing over $5,000 – ruled that AFP did not have to register because it was not 100% certain that it was functionally equivalent to express electioneering advocacy.

David Boutin puts union bosses ahead of New Hampshire families.

Forcing workers to join unions

State Senator David Boutin sided with union bosses and special interests when he voted against the Right to Work bill.[1]

Instead of siding with working families and giving workers the freedom to choose to join a union or not, David Boutin forced workers to pay union dues even if they don't agree with what the union bosses do with their money.

Costing New Hampshire thousands of jobs

Politician David Boutin doesn't understand that New Hampshire needs more well-paying jobs. That's [redacted]

Instead of bringing thousands of jobs and increased wages to New Hampshire families, David Boutin put union bosses and their political power first.

Call State Senator David Boutin at (603) 271-3082 and ask him why he supported the union bosses instead of bringing more jobs and higher wages to New Hampshire.

Tricia Melillo

From: Catherine Bushueff <agawamdesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:51 AM
To: James Gray; Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Support HB195 and greater disclosure

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Senators,

I urge your support for HB195 concerning the definition of political advocacy organizations. Greater disclosure is essential so that voters know who is spending money to elect candidates to public office.

More transparency is good! Lowering the threshold for political advocacy organizations to disclose their spending in elections is appropriate and needed.

Sincerely,
Catherine Bushueff
Sunapee, NH

Tricia Melillo

From: jwardnh@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 3:26 PM
To: James Gray; Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: re: Support HB 195

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Senate Election Law Committee Members:

HB 195 which strengthens disclosure requirements provides support for transparency in politics. Voters who are provided information about who is providing substantial financial support to a candidate are equipped with information that could shed light on a candidate's position on issues of importance.

I urge you to support HB 195. Thank you.

Janet Ward
Contoocook, NH

Tricia Melillo

From: Anne Huberman <anne.huberman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:01 PM
To: James Gray; Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Please support HB195 with an OTP vote

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Committee Members,

I like to know who is funding the candidates on my ballot, and this bill (HB195) will increase my knowledge by identifying smaller donors than previously. More transparency in campaign finance is always a good thing!

--Anne Huberman
Peterborough, NH

Tricia Melillo

From: ellen farnum <ellenlynnfarnum@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2023 3:46 PM
To: James Gray; Keith Murphy; Daryl Abbas; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: HB 195 Please support

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

I would like you to support HB 195. This bill tightens disclosure requirements for political advocacy organizations and helps voters see who is bankrolling campaigns. Under this new bill, political action organizations will be required to register with the secretary of state once they have spent $2,500. We need to do everything possible to make our election process transparent; this bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for all your work,

Ellen Farnum, Tamworth NH

Voting Sheets

Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2023 Session

Bill HB 195

Hearing date: 4/11/23

Executive Session date: 4/18/23

Motion of: OTP **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Murphy, Vice Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Abbas	X			✓	
Sen. Soucy	X		✓	✓	
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X	✓		✓	

Motion of: Consent **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray , Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Murphy , Vice Chair	X			✓	
Sen. Abbas	X			✓	
Sen. Soucy	X	✓		✓	
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X		✓	✓	

Motion of: _____ **Vote:** _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X				
Sen. Murphy , Vice Chair	X				
Sen. Abbas	X				
Sen. Soucy	X				
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	X				

Reported out by: Sen. RPK

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 195**

AN ACT relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka
For the Committee

This bill will reduce the threshold for Political Advocacy Organizations to disclose expenditures, from $5,000 to $2,500. In a small state like New Hampshire, $2,500 can have a significant impact on the outcome of an election. This modification will result in greater transparency for voters as they consider contributions and support for a particular candidate.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB195

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.

Official Docket of **HB195.**:

Date	Body	Description
1/3/2023	H	**Introduced** 01/04/2023 and referred to Election Law
1/18/2023	H	Public Hearing: 01/24/2023 01:00 pm LOB 306-308
1/25/2023	H	Executive Session: 01/31/2023 11:00 am LOB 306-308
3/8/2023	H	==CONTINUED== Executive Session: 03/15/2023 10:00 am LOB 206-208
3/16/2023	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment **#2023-0986h** 03/15/2023 (Vote 19-0; CC) **HC 16** P. 8
3/22/2023	H	Amendment **#2023-0986h**: AA VV 03/22/2023 **HJ 10** P. 14
3/22/2023	H	**Ought to Pass with Amendment** 2023-0986h: MA VV 03/22/2023 **HJ 10** P. 14
3/24/2023	S	Introduced 03/23/2023 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; **SJ 12**
4/5/2023	S	**Hearing:** 04/11/2023, Room 103, LOB, 09:45 am; **SC 17**
4/20/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 05/11/2023; Vote 5-0; CC; **SC 21**
5/11/2023	S	**Ought to Pass**: MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/11/2023; **SJ 14**
6/21/2023	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/15/2023); **SJ 20**
6/21/2023	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/15/2023 **HJ 16**
7/12/2023	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 06/30/2023; Chapter 118; EFF: 08/29/2023 **HJ 17**

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 195 **Senate Committee:** ELMA

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

X Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

X Bill version as it came to the committee

X All Calendar Notices

X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

X Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

X Hearing Report

N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

X Executive Session Sheet

X Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

Post Floor 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

X final version

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

Tricia Mello 7/26/23

Committee Aide **Date**

Senate Clerk's Office AK