

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 138

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 1997

**By Assemblyman GUSCIORA, Assemblywoman WEINBERG,
Assemblymen Zisa, Suliga, Greenwald, Lance, Assemblywoman
Frischia, Assemblyman Dalton and Assemblywoman Turner**

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Congress of the United States to act
2 quickly to pass S.25, which provides for the comprehensive reform of
3 current federal campaign finance laws.
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, The 1996 Presidential and Congressional elections witnessed the
6 collection and spending of record amounts of money, much of it from so-
7 called "special interest" groups seeking influence; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Both major political parties used questionable fund-raising
9 methods to accumulate millions of dollars in "soft-money" that is supposed
10 to be for party-building activities, but was actually funneled to state parties
11 to help candidates; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, The perceived inability of the current federal law to stop certain
13 kinds of donations and donations from certain sources has sparked calls for
14 Congressional investigations of the practices of both major political parties;
15 and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, This perception has also added to the cynicism of the electorate,
17 many of whom believe that Congress is for sale to the richest special
18 interest groups and largest contributors, thus undermining the faith of the
19 American people in their electoral system; and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, Senators John McCain, a Republican, and Russell Feingold, a
21 Democrat, have introduced S.25 because they believe that the time has
22 come for a comprehensive and bipartisan review of current federal
23 campaign finance laws; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, Among other things, the bill bans contributions of "soft money" and
25 prohibits contributions from political action committees or "PACS" and
26 from noncitizens living in the United States; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, S.25 establishes a system of voluntary spending limits and benefits
28 for Senate candidates, whereby they must agree to limit overall campaign
29 spending and personal spending on a campaign in exchange for a discount
30 on postal rates, plus up to 30 minutes of free television time and a 50%
31 discount on all other purchased advertising time; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, President Clinton has indicated his willingness to work with
33 Congress to arrive at a solution to this issue; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Senators McCain and Feingold believe that given the support of
2 the President, the current spirit of bipartisan cooperation in Congress and
3 the dismay of the electorate with the current system of campaign finance,
4 there is a unique opportunity to provide meaningful campaign finance
5 reform; and

6 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this House states that it supports the
7 passage by Congress of S.25 and welcomes comprehensive federal
8 campaign finance reform; now, therefore,

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10 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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12 1. This House urges Congress to act quickly to pass S.25, which provides
13 for the comprehensive reform of current federal campaign finance laws.

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15 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
16 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
17 to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and House
19 of Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 This resolution urges Congress to act quickly to pass S.25, which provides
25 for the comprehensive reform of current federal campaign finance laws.

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