

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 123**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 1997

**By Senator DiFRANCESCO**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** establishing the Legislative Evaluation  
2 Commission on Campaign Finance Reform.  
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4 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the enactment on March 8, 1993 of P.L.1993, c.65,  
5 limits were placed for the first time on the amount of money or other thing  
6 of value that could be contributed to or received by a political party  
7 organization or a candidate or candidate committee in a non-gubernatorial  
8 campaign; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, The law also enhanced the integrity and transparency of  
10 contributions' reporting by prohibiting candidates from maintaining more  
11 than two fundraising organizations; specified the acceptable uses of  
12 campaign funds; established rules for the creation and operation of  
13 legislative leadership committees; required political action committees and  
14 other campaign financing entities to register with the Election Law  
15 Enforcement Commission so that the public might better be able to identify  
16 their sponsorship and interests; and upgraded penalties for the violation of  
17 campaign finance statutes, among other reforms; and  
18 **WHEREAS**, The genesis of these reforms was a series of recommendations  
19 made in a report issued in October 1990 by the Ad Hoc Commission on  
20 Legislative Ethics and Campaign Finance, popularly known as the  
21 Rosenthal Commission after its chairman, Professor Alan Rosenthal of  
22 Rutgers University; and  
23 **WHEREAS**, The four years that have passed since the enactment of P.L.1993,  
24 c.65 comprise an entire election cycle, during which the Governor,  
25 members of the Legislature, and most local officials will have run for  
26 election or re-election under the law; and  
27 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that a new commission be established to  
28 examine the effect of P.L.1993, c.65 on elections and campaign finance in  
29 this State and to determine whether the limits, restrictions, and other  
30 changes made under that act have achieved the purposes of the Ad Hoc  
31 Commission in making its recommendations and whether the law continues  
32 to provide an effective means of monitoring and controlling contributions  
33 in election and re-election campaigns; now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*  
2 *Assembly concurring):*

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4       1. There is established a commission to be known as the "Legislative  
5 Evaluation Commission on Campaign Finance Reform" which shall consist of  
6 11 members. The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General  
7 Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the  
8 General Assembly shall each appoint one legislative member from among the  
9 members in the respective houses of the same political party of the appointing  
10 officer and one public member. The chairman of the State committee of each  
11 of the two political parties whose candidates for Governor received the largest  
12 number of votes at the most recent gubernatorial election shall each appoint  
13 a member from among the chairmen of the county committees of the  
14 chairman's political party. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
15 General Assembly shall jointly appoint a public member who shall serve as  
16 chairman. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the  
17 same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the  
18 commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the  
19 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits  
20 of funds appropriated or otherwise available to the commission.

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22       2. Initial appointment of the members of the commission shall be made no  
23 earlier than November 5, 1997 and no later than 30 days thereafter. The  
24 commission shall organize within 15 days after completion of those initial  
25 appointments and shall select a secretary who need not be a member of the  
26 commission.

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28       3. It shall be the duty of the commission to review the general public  
29 purposes of P.L.1993, c.65; to evaluate the ways and extent to which those  
30 public purposes have been achieved through the implementation and  
31 enforcement of P.L.1993, c.65, including any revisions thereof since its  
32 enactment, and of any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to the  
33 legislation; to determine whether and how, if at all, those public purposes might  
34 be more thoroughly and effectively accomplished; and to make  
35 recommendations for the enactment of such further legislation, adoption of  
36 such new or revised rules and regulations, or implementation of such additional  
37 enforcement procedures as would further the intent of the Legislature, in  
38 enacting P.L.1993, c.65, to reform the conduct, control and disclosure of  
39 campaign financing activity in New Jersey.

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41       4. The commission may meet and hold hearings at such place or places as  
42 it shall designate and shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
43 appointing authorities and to the members of the Legislature no later than six

1 months after it has organized and held its first meeting, and may accompany  
2 the same with any legislative bills which it may desire to recommend for  
3 adoption by the Legislature.

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6 STATEMENT

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8 This concurrent resolution establishes the "Legislative Evaluation  
9 Commission on Campaign Finance Reform".

10 The commission is to consist of 11 members. The President of the Senate,  
11 the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and  
12 the Minority Leader of the General Assembly shall each appoint one legislative  
13 member from among the members in the respective houses of the same  
14 political party of the appointing officer and one public member. The chairman  
15 of the State committee of each of the two political parties whose candidates  
16 for Governor received the largest number of votes at the most recent  
17 gubernatorial election shall each appoint a member from among the chairmen  
18 of the county committees of the chairman's political party. The President of  
19 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall jointly appoint a  
20 public member who shall serve as chairman. The members shall be appointed  
21 no earlier than November 5, 1997, the day after the 1997 general election,  
22 and no later than 30 days after that date.

23 It shall be the duty of the commission to review the several public purposes  
24 of P.L.1993, c.65, which made extensive changes in "The New Jersey  
25 Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act". The commission  
26 is to review the general public purposes of P.L.1993, c.65; to evaluate the  
27 ways and extent to which those public purposes have been achieved through  
28 the implementation and enforcement of P.L.1993, c.65, including any revisions  
29 thereof since its enactment, and of any rules or regulations promulgated  
30 pursuant to the legislation; to determine whether and how, if at all, those public  
31 purposes might be more thoroughly and effectively accomplished; and to make  
32 recommendations for the enactment of such further legislation, adoption of  
33 such new or revised rules and regulations, or implementation of such additional  
34 enforcement procedures as would further the intent of the Legislature, in  
35 enacting P.L.1993, c.65, to reform the conduct, control and disclosure of  
36 campaign financing activity in New Jersey.

37 It is the intent of the sponsor to introduce a concurrent resolution in the next  
38 legislative session to continue this commission in order to enable it to complete  
39 its work.

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3 Establishes "Legislative Evaluation Commission on Campaign Finance

4 Reform".