

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 18, 1996

By Senator MacINNES

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Joint Legislative Committee on  
2 Ethical Standards to investigate all aspects of campaign financing and to  
3 make recommendations for campaign financing reform.

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5 WHEREAS, Campaign financing has been an issue before the Legislature for  
6 many years; and

7 WHEREAS, The last comprehensive effort to reform campaign financing,  
8 P.L.1993, c.65, failed to establish a system in which the public can have  
9 trust and confidence; and

10 WHEREAS, Public suspicion regarding the role of money in politics continues  
11 unabated; and

12 WHEREAS, The perceived connection between campaign contributions and the  
13 operation of the Legislature raises the specter of conflicts of interest; and

14 WHEREAS, This specter is damaging not only to the integrity of the Legislature  
15 but also to the integrity of the political process in general; and

16 WHEREAS, The Legislature cannot allow this situation to continue without  
17 taking remedial action; and

18 WHEREAS, To ensure the public's trust in any legislative action, the most  
19 appropriate body to investigate all aspects of campaign financing and to  
20 make recommendations for campaign financing reform is the bipartisan  
21 Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General  
24 Assembly concurring):

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26 1. The Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards is directed to  
27 investigate all aspects of campaign financing, including the effect of campaign  
28 contributions on the legislative process, and to make recommendations for  
29 campaign financing reform.

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31 2. The joint committee is entitled to call upon the services of any State,  
32 county or municipal department, board, commission or agency, as may be  
33 available to it for these purposes, and to incur such traveling and other  
34 miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary for the proper execution of  
35 its duties and as may be within the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise

1 made available to it for these purposes.

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3 3. The joint committee may meet and hold hearings at such places as it  
4 shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

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6 4. The joint committee shall report its preliminary findings and  
7 recommendations no later than July 1, 1997.

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#### STATEMENT

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12 Although the Legislature has tried many times to reform campaign financing,  
13 public suspicion regarding campaign financing and the role of money in politics  
14 continues unabated. The perceived connection between campaign  
15 contributions and the operation of the Legislature raises the specter of conflicts  
16 of interest which damages not only the integrity of the Legislature but also the  
17 integrity of the entire political process. The Legislature cannot allow this  
18 situation to continue without taking remedial action.

19 To ensure the public's trust in any legislative action, the most appropriate  
20 body to investigate all aspects of campaign financing, including the effect of  
21 campaign contributions on the legislative process, and to make  
22 recommendations for campaign financing reform is the bipartisan Joint  
23 Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards. This concurrent resolution  
24 directs the joint committee to make such an investigation and to make  
25 recommendations for campaign financing reform. The joint committee is  
26 entitled to call upon the services of any State, county or municipal department,  
27 board, commission or agency, as may be available to it for these purposes,  
28 and to incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem  
29 necessary for the proper execution of its duties and as may be within the limit  
30 of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for these purposes.

31 The joint committee shall report its preliminary findings and  
32 recommendations no later than July 1, 1997.

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37 Directs Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards to investigate  
38 campaign financing and to make recommendations for reform.