

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 623

A bill to amend 1976 PA 388, entitled
"Michigan campaign finance act,"
(MCL 169.201 to 169.282) by adding section 65a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 65A. (1) THIS SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED
2 AS THE "CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1998".
3 (2) A CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVES FUNDS FROM THE STATE CAMPAIGN
4 FUND AND WHOSE NAME IS ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION
5 BALLOT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC DEBATES REQUIRED UNDER
6 THIS SUBSECTION WITH ALL OTHER CANDIDATES OF THE SAME PARTY WHOSE
7 NAMES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT, IF
8 ANY. A PUBLIC DEBATE SHALL BE SCHEDULED IN EACH CALENDAR MONTH
9 BEGINNING IN THE MONTH IN WHICH THE NAMES OF MORE THAN 1
10 CANDIDATE OF THE SAME PARTY ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR ON THE PRIMARY
11 ELECTION BALLOT AND ENDING IN THE MONTH IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE

SB0623, As Passed House, September 24, 1998

Sub. S.B. 623 (H-1) as amended September 24, 1998

2

1 MONTH IN WHICH THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS HELD. EACH PUBLIC DEBATE
2 SHALL BE HELD IN A DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF THIS STATE.
3 THE CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN A PUBLIC DEBATE UNDER THIS SUB-
4 SECTION, UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT, SHALL DESIGNATE THE GEOGRAPHIC
5 REGIONS IN WHICH THE PUBLIC DEBATES WILL BE HELD. IF THE CANDI-
6 DATES ARE UNABLE TO AGREE UPON THE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS, THE SECRE-
7 TARY OF STATE SHALL DESIGNATE THE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS FOR THE
8 PUBLIC DEBATES.

9 (3) A CANDIDATE [FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE
10] WHOSE NAME IS ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR ON THE GENERAL ELECTION
11 BALLOT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC DEBATES REQUIRED UNDER
12 THIS SUBSECTION WITH ALL OTHER CANDIDATES WHOSE NAMES ARE ELIGI-
13 BLE TO APPEAR ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, IF ANY. A PUBLIC
14 DEBATE SHALL BE HELD IN EACH MEDIA MARKET OF THIS STATE DURING
15 THE PERIOD BEGINNING IN THE MONTH IN WHICH THE NAMES OF MORE THAN
16 1 CANDIDATE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
17 AND ENDING IN THE MONTH IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE MONTH IN WHICH THE
18 GENERAL ELECTION IS HELD. AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION, "MEDIA
19 MARKET" MEANS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 20 (A) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY DETROIT MEDIA.
- 21 (B) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY FLINT MEDIA.
- 22 (C) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY TRAVERSE CITY MEDIA.
- 23 (D) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY GRAND RAPIDS MEDIA.
- 24 (E) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY LANSING MEDIA.
- 25 (F) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY ALPENA MEDIA.
- 26 (G) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY MARQUETTE MEDIA.

SB0623, As Passed House, September 24, 1998

Senate Bill No. 623

3

1 (H) THE MARKET AREA SERVED BY MEDIA COVERING SOUTHWEST
2 MICHIGAN.

3 (4) A PUBLIC DEBATE HELD UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE SCHED-
4 ULED UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALL CANDIDATES REQUIRED TO
5 PARTICIPATE. IF THE CANDIDATES ARE UNABLE TO AGREE UPON A SCHED-
6 ULE OF PUBLIC DEBATES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AFTER REASONABLE
7 CONSIDERATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S SCHEDULES, SHALL ESTABLISH A
8 PUBLIC DEBATE SCHEDULE.

9 (5) A PUBLIC DEBATE HELD UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE HELD
10 UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

11 (A) A MODERATOR SHALL BE PRESENT AND SHALL BE A NEUTRAL
12 PARTY. THE CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN A PUBLIC DEBATE UNDER
13 THIS SECTION, UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT, SHALL DESIGNATE A MODERATOR
14 FOR THE PUBLIC DEBATE. IF THE CANDIDATES ARE UNABLE TO AGREE
15 UPON A MODERATOR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL DESIGNATE A MODER-
16 ATOR FOR THE PUBLIC DEBATE.

17 (B) EACH CANDIDATE SHALL HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ANY
18 OTHER CANDIDATE A QUESTION. THE RESPONDING CANDIDATE SHALL HAVE
19 2 MINUTES TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION AND THE CANDIDATE WHO ASKED
20 THE QUESTION SHALL HAVE 1 MINUTE TO REBUT THAT RESPONSE.

21 (C) EACH CANDIDATE SHALL BE POSITIONED BEHIND A PODIUM.

22 (6) A CANDIDATE WHO DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC DEBATE
23 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL RETURN THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM
24 THE STATE CAMPAIGN FUND FOR THAT ELECTION, IF ANY. HOWEVER, A
25 CANDIDATE WHO IS NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC DEBATE
26 BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY UNFIT OR BECAUSE OF
27 OTHER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY ALL

SB0623, As Passed House, September 24, 1998

Senate Bill No. 623

4

1 CANDIDATES SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE FUNDS RECEIVED
2 FROM THE STATE CAMPAIGN FUND.