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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY MCKEAN and HANSEN

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3 A Senate Resolution requesting the legislative council  
4 to appoint a committee to promote truthfulness and  
5 honesty in political campaigns.

6 WHEREAS, allegations relating to the use of false  
7 or misleading assertions and material in political  
8 campaigns have resulted in focusing media attention on  
9 the negative side of political campaigning and away  
10 from the issues in and candidates standing for the  
11 elections; and

12 WHEREAS, false or misleading assertions and  
13 material in political campaigns do not provide useful  
14 candidate and ballot information to the voters of this  
15 state, but rather only serve to harm and  
16 sensationalize the political process; and

17 WHEREAS, although there have been attempts to  
18 improve the conduct of persons involved in political  
19 campaigns, because of the complex legal issues  
20 involved in the regulation of campaign conduct and the  
21 context in which most of those attempts have arisen,  
22 those attempts have not achieved the goal of  
23 eliminating the use of false or misleading  
24 representations and material in political campaigns;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, any attempt to improve the conduct of  
27 persons involved in political campaigns must apply to  
28 all persons involved in the campaigns and should be  
29 based on bipartisan consensus in order to be fair and  
30 effective; NOW THEREFORE,

11  
STATE GOVERNMENT

SR 11

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the legislative  
2 council is requested to appoint a committee to  
3 undertake a review of the issues and proposals  
4 relating to how to most effectively and fairly control  
5 and limit the use of false or misleading assertions,  
6 untrue or deceptive representations of fact, or other  
7 false, misleading, or deceptive material in political  
8 campaigns. The review shall include but not be  
9 limited to a review of legal impediments to  
10 effectively control activity within political  
11 campaigns; other states' efforts to regulate conduct  
12 in political campaigns; recommendations regarding the  
13 most effective forum for resolving issues and  
14 complaints relating to the use of false, misleading,  
15 or deceptive assertions or material in political  
16 campaigns; and recommendations relating to what form  
17 any regulation relating to campaign conduct should  
18 take. Committee membership shall be as determined by  
19 the legislative council and may include, but is not  
20 limited to, members of the legislative council, other  
21 members of the general assembly, and any other  
22 interested persons deemed appropriate by the  
23 legislative council. Staffing for the committee shall  
24 be provided by the legislative service bureau.

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