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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD (May 20, 2019) -- The Illinois State Board of Elections today approved a policy change relating to late reporting of contributions of \$1,000 or more by political committees.

Under Illinois campaign finance law, political committees are required to individually report contributions of \$1,000 or more within five business days of their deposit into the committee's account. The reporting period becomes two business days within 30 days of an election. Late reporting of such contributions results in a fine of 10% to 50% of the contribution.

Normally, the first penalty, known as an A-1 violation, assessed against a committee is automatically stayed and does not have to be paid unless a second violation occurs in the next two years. However, only a single violation is eligible to be stayed, so committees that reported more than one late report on a single day were not eligible to have their fines stayed.

Under the change approved today, multiple A-1 violations are eligible to be stayed, provided they are the first set of violations for the committee and all contributions involved are part of the same deposit. Going forward, this benefit will automatically be applied to all eligible committees.

The new policy was approved on an 8-0 vote by the board at its May meeting in Springfield.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State's 108 election authorities.

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