NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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PRESS ADVISORY

The Election Law Enforcement Commission has proposed a repeal of its regulation setting forth specific office hours. While the Commission has no immediate plans to change its office hours, budget cuts may compel the Commission in the future to curtail its office hours as well as other operations. Accordingly, the Commission has proposed that its regulations setting forth specific office hours be repealed so that it presents no impediment to any necessary immediate actions.

The Commission has also proposed a modest increase in its fees for photocopies and computer-generated data. These fees reflect inflation and increased costs of materials.

A copy of the proposals discussed above is attached.

Written comments on the above proposals should be sent by February 1, 1990.
OTHER AGENCIES

(a)

PROPOSALS

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
Office Hours and Copying Fees
Proposed Repeal: N.J.A.C. 19:25-2.2
Proposed Amendment: N.J.A.C. 19:25-2.4

Authorized By: The Election Law Enforcement Commission.
Frederick M. Herrmann, Ph.D., Executive Director.
Proposal Number: PRN 1990-11.

Submit written comments by February 1, 1990 to:
Gregory E. Nagy, Legal Director
Election Law Enforcement Commission
National State Bank Building, 12th Floor
CN 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The Commission currently has no plans to change or curtail its hours of operations as described in N.J.A.C. 19:25-2.2. However, the possibility of substantial budget cuts may compel the Commission to curtail many of its operations at a future date including its hours of operation for purposes of public access. Should that unfortunate necessity arise, the Commission must be in a position to implement cost saving measures expeditiously. Therefore, the Commission believes N.J.A.C. 19:25-2.2 should be repealed so that it does not present any impediment to immediate action.

The Commission has not made any adjustment in its copying fees since 1984 (see 16 N.J.R. 1044A and 2154A). The amendment increases the fees for photocopies and computer-generated data to reflect increased costs to the Commission for materials and equipment. The Commission also is proposing a specific fee for a computer tape with campaign finance data at $125.00 per tape. The copying fee for microfilm records is proposed for elimination because microfilm records are no longer in use.

Social Impact
The increase in copying fees and the possible future curtailment of hours of operation will make access to campaign finance records somewhat more expensive and difficult for candidates, treasurers, the press and other users of this information. However, the Commission believes that the increase in copying fees is relatively modest and justified by inflation and increased costs of materials and copying equipment. The Commission hopes it will not become necessary to curtail its hours of operation.

Economic Impact
The costs of obtaining copies of documents and computer-generated records will be higher for persons desiring such copies. However, the Commission believes these costs remain relatively modest. While the costs to candidates or political entities for receiving copies of Commission documents and records will rise, the amount of funds being contributed to candidates and political entities has risen dramatically and these increases should not prove overly burdensome.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement
The proposed repeal and amendment do not impose any requirements on small businesses, as that term is defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The rule changes affect users of Commission information and data.

(CITE 22 N.J.R. 22) NEW JERSEY REGISTER, TC