

(3) "Legislative newsletter" means an unsolicited document that provides a forum for the dissemination of information concerning:

- (i) An incumbent's performance in legislative office; or
- (ii) An issue or issues of public importance chosen by the incumbent or candidate.

(4) "Publication expense" means an expenditure relating to writing, publishing, printing, issuing, mailing, or distributing a legislative newsletter to a voter, potential voter, or constituent.

(b) An incumbent who has not filed a certificate of candidacy may pay the publication expenses of a legislative newsletter from either:

(1) The incumbent's campaign treasury if the incumbent complies with all other requirements of this subtitle regarding expenditures and campaign literature; or

(2) The personal funds of the incumbent or the spouse of the incumbent if:

- (i) The incumbent signs and files a report with the Board that:
  - 1. Contains a detailed list of publication expenses;
  - 2. Contains an affidavit that no funds for the legislative newsletter have been solicited or received from another source to supplement the personal funds;
  - 3. Is on a form that the Board provides; and
  - 4. Is filed within 10 days of the first mailing or distribution of each issue; and

(ii) Each issue of the legislative newsletter contains a statement that it is disseminated at the personal expense of the incumbent.

(c) An individual who has filed a certificate of candidacy shall pay the publication expenses of a legislative newsletter only from the individual's campaign treasury and not from public funds.

(d) The provisions of this section do not restrict the use of any funds appropriated in the State budget for the General Assembly.

**[26-9.2.] 13-504. INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES.**

(a) Provided that a person complies with the requirement set forth in subsection (b) of this section, this subtitle may not be construed to prohibit a person from expressing personal views on any subject or from spending personal funds to purchase any campaign advertisement or campaign material.