



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 6634***

LCO No. 3290

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and  
Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CLARIFYING AND MAKING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-333b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) As used in this chapter, "contribution" does not mean:

4 (1) A loan of money made in the ordinary course of business by a  
5 national or state bank;

6 (2) Any communication made by a corporation, organization or  
7 association to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
8 administrative personnel, or their families;

9 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns  
10 by any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,  
11 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
12 families;

13 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering  
14 their time;

15 (5) The use of real or personal property, and the cost of invitations,  
16 food or beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a  
17 candidate or on behalf of a state central or town committee, in  
18 rendering voluntary personal services for candidate or party-related  
19 activities at the individual's residence, to the extent that the cumulative  
20 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by the individual  
21 on behalf of any single candidate does not exceed two hundred dollars  
22 with respect to any single election, and on behalf of all state central  
23 and town committees does not exceed four hundred dollars in any  
24 calendar year;

25 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use in a candidate's campaign or  
26 for use by a state central or town committee at a discount, if the charge  
27 is not less than the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative  
28 value of the discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate does  
29 not exceed two hundred dollars with respect to any single election,  
30 and on behalf of all state central and town committees does not exceed  
31 four hundred dollars in a calendar year;

32 (7) Any unreimbursed payment for travel expenses made by an  
33 individual who on [his] the individual's own behalf volunteers [his]  
34 the individual's personal services to any single candidate to the extent  
35 the cumulative value does not exceed two hundred dollars with  
36 respect to any single election, and on behalf of all state central or town  
37 committees does not exceed four hundred dollars in a calendar year;

38 (8) The payment, by a party committee, political committee or an  
39 individual, of the costs of preparation, display, mailing or other  
40 distribution incurred by the committee or individual with respect to  
41 any printed slate card, sample ballot or other printed list containing  
42 the names of three or more candidates;

43 (9) The donation of any item of personal property by an individual

44 to a committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction,  
45 or the purchase by an individual of any such item at such an affair, to  
46 the extent that the cumulative value donated or purchased does not  
47 exceed fifty dollars;

48 (10) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
49 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair, provided the  
50 cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty  
51 dollars from any single candidate or [his] the candidate's committee  
52 with respect to any single election campaign or two hundred fifty  
53 dollars from any single party committee or other political committee in  
54 any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity or fifty dollars  
55 for purchases by any other person;

56 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to [his] the candidate's  
57 candidate committee;

58 (12) The donation of goods or services by a business entity to a  
59 committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, to  
60 the extent that the cumulative value donated does not exceed one  
61 hundred dollars;

62 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a  
63 telephone company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications  
64 service for a committee, provided the security deposit is refunded to  
65 the individual; [or]

66 (14) The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial  
67 support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television  
68 company, as defined in section 16-1, for community access  
69 programming pursuant to section 16-331a, unless (A) the major  
70 purpose of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to  
71 influence the nomination or election of a candidate, or (B) such  
72 facilities, equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a  
73 political party; or

74     (15) The sale of food or beverage by a town committee to an  
75     individual at a town fair, county fair or similar mass gathering held  
76     within the state, to the extent that the cumulative payment made by  
77     any one individual for such items does not exceed fifty dollars.

78     Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-333f of the general statutes is  
79     repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

80     (b) The formation of a candidate committee by a candidate and the  
81     filing of statements pursuant to section 9-333j shall not be required if  
82     the candidate files a certification with the proper authority required by  
83     section 9-333e, at any time prior to the acceptance of a contribution or  
84     making of an expenditure and any of the following conditions exist for  
85     the campaign: (1) The candidate is one of a slate of candidates whose  
86     campaigns are funded solely by a party committee or a political  
87     committee formed for a single election or primary and expenditures  
88     made on behalf of the candidate's campaign are reported by the  
89     committee sponsoring [his] the candidate's candidacy; (2) the  
90     candidate finances [his] the candidate's campaign entirely from  
91     personal funds and does not solicit or receive contributions; or (3) the  
92     candidate does not receive or expend funds in excess of [five hundred]  
93     one thousand dollars. If the candidate no longer qualifies for the  
94     exemption under any of these conditions, [he] the candidate shall  
95     comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, not later  
96     than three business days thereafter and shall provide [his] the  
97     candidate's designated campaign treasurer with all information  
98     required for completion of the treasurer's statements and filings as  
99     required by section 9-333j. If the candidate no longer qualifies for the  
100     exemption due to the condition stated in [his] the candidate's  
101     certification but so qualifies due to a different condition specified in  
102     this subsection, [he] the candidate shall file an amended certification  
103     with the proper authority and provide the new condition for [his] the  
104     candidate's qualification not later than three business days following  
105     the change in circumstances of the financing of [his] the candidate's  
106     campaign. The filing of a certification under this subsection shall not

107 relieve the candidate from compliance with the provisions of this  
108 chapter.

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of 9-333g of the general statutes is repealed  
110 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

111 (d) A group of two or more individuals who have joined solely to  
112 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question shall not be  
113 required to file as a political committee, make such designations in  
114 accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section or file  
115 statements pursuant to section 9-333j, if the group does not receive or  
116 expend in excess of [five hundred] one thousand dollars for the entire  
117 campaign and the agent of such individuals files a certification with  
118 the proper authority or authorities as required under section 9-333e  
119 before an expenditure is made. The certification shall include the name  
120 of the group, or the names of the persons who comprise the group, and  
121 the name and address of the agent which shall appear on any  
122 communication paid for or sponsored by the group as required by  
123 section 9-333w. If the group receives or expends in excess of [five  
124 hundred] one thousand dollars, the agent shall complete the statement  
125 of organization and file as a political committee not later than three  
126 business days thereafter. The agent shall provide the designated  
127 campaign treasurer with all information required for completion of the  
128 statements for filing as required by section 9-333j. The filing of a  
129 certification under this subsection shall not relieve the group from  
130 compliance with the provisions of this chapter, and the group shall be  
131 considered a political committee established solely for a referendum  
132 question for purposes of the limitations on contributions and  
133 expenditures.

134 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-333h of the general statutes is  
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

136 (d) No person shall act as a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign  
137 treasurer unless [he] the person is an elector of this state, and a  
138 statement, signed by the chairman in the case of a party committee or

139 political committee or by the candidate in the case of a candidate  
140 committee, designating [him] the person as campaign treasurer or  
141 deputy campaign treasurer has been filed in accordance with section 9-  
142 333e. In the case of a political committee, the filing of a statement of  
143 organization by the chairman of the committee, in accordance with the  
144 provisions of section 9-333g, shall constitute compliance with the filing  
145 requirements of this section. No provision of this subsection shall  
146 prevent the campaign treasurer, deputy campaign treasurer or solicitor  
147 of any committee from being the campaign treasurer, deputy  
148 campaign treasurer or solicitor of any other committee or prevent any  
149 committee from having more than one solicitor, but no candidate shall  
150 have more than one campaign treasurer. A candidate shall not serve as  
151 [his] the candidate's own campaign treasurer or deputy campaign  
152 treasurer, except that a candidate who is exempt from forming a  
153 candidate committee under subsection (b) of section 9-333f and has  
154 filed a certification that [he] the candidate is financing [his] the  
155 candidate's campaign from [his] the candidate's own personal funds or  
156 is not receiving or expending in excess of [five hundred] one thousand  
157 dollars may perform the duties of a campaign treasurer for his own  
158 campaign.

159 Sec. 5. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 9-333i of the general statutes  
160 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

161 (e) (1) Any such payment shall be by check drawn by the campaign  
162 treasurer, on the designated depository. Any payment in satisfaction of  
163 any financial obligation incurred by a party committee may also be  
164 made by debit card. (2) [Each such] The campaign treasurer of each  
165 committee may draw a check, not to exceed one hundred dollars, to  
166 establish a petty cash fund and may deposit additional funds to  
167 maintain it, but the fund shall not exceed one hundred dollars at any  
168 time. All expenditures from a petty cash fund shall be reported in the  
169 same manner as any other expenditure.

170 (f) The campaign treasurer shall preserve all internal records of

171 transactions entered in reports filed pursuant to section 9-333j for four  
172 years from the date of the report in which the transactions were  
173 entered. If any checks are issued pursuant to subsection (e) of this  
174 section, the campaign treasurer who issued them shall preserve all  
175 cancelled checks and bank statements for four years from the date on  
176 which they were issued. If debit card payments are made pursuant to  
177 subsection (e) of this section, the campaign treasurer who made said  
178 payments shall preserve all debit card slips and bank statements for  
179 four years from the date on which the payments were made. In the  
180 case of a candidate committee, the campaign treasurer or the  
181 candidate, if the candidate so requests, shall preserve all internal  
182 records, cancelled checks and bank statements for four years from the  
183 date of the last report required to be filed under subsection (a) of  
184 section 9-333j.

185 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-333j of the  
186 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
187 thereof:

188 (c) (1) Each statement filed under subsection (a), (e) or (f) of this  
189 section shall include, but not be limited to: (A) An itemized accounting  
190 of each contribution, if any, including the full name and complete  
191 address of each contributor and the amount of the contribution; (B) in  
192 the case of anonymous contributions, the total amount received and  
193 the denomination of the bills; (C) an itemized accounting of each  
194 expenditure, if any, including the full name and complete address of  
195 each payee, the amount and the purpose of the expenditure, the  
196 candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure, whether the  
197 expenditure is made independently of the candidate supported or is an  
198 in-kind contribution to the candidate, and a statement of the balance  
199 on hand or deficit, as the case may be; (D) an itemized accounting of  
200 each expense incurred but not paid; (E) the name and address of any  
201 person who is the guarantor of a loan to, or the cosigner of a note with,  
202 the candidate on whose behalf the committee was formed, or the  
203 campaign treasurer in the case of a party committee or a political

204 committee or who has advanced a security deposit to a telephone  
205 company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications service  
206 for a committee; (F) for each business entity or person purchasing  
207 advertising space in a program for a fund-raising affair, the name and  
208 address of the business entity and the name of the chief executive  
209 officer of the business entity or the name and address of the person,  
210 and the amount and aggregate amounts of such purchases; (G) for  
211 each individual who contributes in excess of one hundred dollars but  
212 not more than one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, to the extent  
213 known, the principal occupation of such individual and the name of  
214 the individual's employer, if any; (H) for each individual who  
215 contributes in excess of one thousand dollars in the aggregate, the  
216 principal occupation of such individual, the name of the individual's  
217 employer, if any, and a statement indicating whether the individual or  
218 a business with which he is associated has a contract with the state  
219 which is valued at more than five thousand dollars; [and] (I) for each  
220 itemized contribution made by a lobbyist, the spouse of a lobbyist or  
221 any dependent child of a lobbyist who resides in the lobbyist's  
222 household, a statement to that effect; and (J) for each business entity  
223 making a donation of goods or services for a fund-raising affair  
224 pursuant to subdivision (12) of subsection (b) of section 9-333b, the  
225 name of the business entity, the name of the chief executive officer of  
226 the business entity and a brief description of the goods or services  
227 donated. Each campaign treasurer shall include in such statement the  
228 date, location and ticket price, if any, of any testimonial affair held  
229 under the provisions of section 9-333k or any other fund-raising affair  
230 held and an itemized accounting of the receipts and expenditures  
231 relative to [any testimonial affair held under the provisions of section  
232 9-333k or any other fund-raising affair] such testimonial or fundraising  
233 affair.

234 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 9-333m of the general statutes is  
235 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

236 (e) No individual shall make a contribution to any candidate or

237 committee, other than a contribution in kind, in excess of one hundred  
238 dollars except by personal check or credit card of that individual.

239 Sec. 8. Subsection (9) of section 9-333x of the general statutes is  
240 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

241 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess  
242 of [fifty] one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any  
243 political party, candidate or referendum question.

244 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002, and shall apply to  
245 primaries and elections held on or after said date.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To exempt limited sales of food or beverage by town committees at fairs from the definition of "contribution" under the campaign finance statutes, increase certain campaign finance reporting thresholds, require additional reporting concerning fund-raising affairs and authorize credit card contributions and authorize debit card expenditures by party committees.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*