



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 221**

*January Session, 2003*

Senate Bill No. 645

*Senate, April 8, 2003*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. DEFRONZO of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC FILING OF CERTAIN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-348ee of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective January 1, 2004*):

4 (b) On and after January 1, [1999] 2004, the campaign treasurer of  
5 the candidate committee for each candidate for nomination or election  
6 to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General,  
7 State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State who raises  
8 or spends [two hundred] fifty thousand dollars or more during an  
9 election campaign shall file in electronic form all financial disclosure  
10 statements required by said section 9-333j by either transmitting disks,  
11 tapes or other electronic storage media containing the contents of such  
12 statements to the office of the Secretary of the State or transmitting the

13 statements on-line to said office. Each such campaign treasurer shall  
14 use, for all such statements, either (1) a software program created by  
15 the Secretary of the State under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
16 section, [for all such statements filed on or after January 1, 1999,] or (2)  
17 another software program which provides for the standard reporting  
18 format, and complies with the specifications, which are prescribed by  
19 the secretary under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section. [,  
20 for all such statements filed on or after July 1, 1999.] The office of the  
21 Secretary of the State shall accept any statement that uses any such  
22 software program. Once any such candidate committee has raised or  
23 spent [two hundred] fifty thousand dollars or more during an election  
24 campaign, all previously filed statements required by said section 9-  
25 333j, which were not filed in electronic form shall be refiled in such  
26 form, using such a software program, not later than the date on which  
27 the campaign treasurer of the committee is required to file the next  
28 regular statement under said section 9-333j.

29 (c) [On and after January 1, 1999, (1) the] The campaign treasurer of  
30 the candidate committee for any [other] candidate, as defined in  
31 section 9-333a, who is required to file the financial disclosure  
32 statements required by section 9-333j with the office of the Secretary of  
33 the State but is not required to file such statements in electronic form  
34 under subsection (b) of this section and [(2)] the campaign treasurer of  
35 any political committee or party committee, may file such statements  
36 in electronic form. [any financial disclosure statements required by  
37 said section 9-333j.] Such filings may be made by either transmitting  
38 disks, tapes or other electronic storage media containing the contents  
39 of such statements to the proper authority under section 9-333e or  
40 transmitting the statements on-line to such proper authority. Each such  
41 campaign treasurer shall use, for all such statements filed in electronic  
42 form, either [(A)] (1) a software program created by the Secretary of  
43 the State under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, [for all  
44 such statements filed in electronic form on or after January 1, 1999, or  
45 (B)] or (2) another software program which provides for the standard  
46 reporting format, and complies with the specifications, which are  
47 prescribed by the secretary under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of

48 this section. [, for all such statements filed in electronic form on or after  
49 July 1, 1999.] The proper authority under section 9-333e shall accept  
50 any statement that uses any such software program.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2004</i>

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	None	None
Elect. Enforcement Com.	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill reduces the minimum threshold requirement from \$250,000 to \$50,000 for the electronic filing of campaign finance reports for candidates for constitutional offices.

This bill will increase the number of campaign finance reports filed with the Secretary of the State (SOTS). This will result in a small workload increase for the SOTS, which will not require additional funding.

The bill has no fiscal impact on the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 645

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC FILING OF CERTAIN  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill reduces, from \$250,000 to \$50,000, the minimum threshold requirement for candidates for the six state constitutional offices to file campaign finance statements in electronic form. It applies to candidates for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state comptroller, state treasurer, and secretary of the state. Their campaign finance reports must be sent on disk, tape, or other electronic storage medium or transmitted on-line to the secretary's office, as they are under current law, if they raise or spend at least the minimum amount. The bill retains the current option for candidates for other offices to file in electronic form.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2004

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17      Nay 0