



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 379

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5622

House of Representatives, March 31, 2004

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PROMOTIONAL ADVERTISING FEATURING ELECTED OFFICIALS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 9-333l of the general statutes, as
2 amended by section 63 of public act 03-241, is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (d) (1) No incumbent holding office shall, during the three months
5 preceding an election in which he is a candidate for reelection or
6 election to another office, use public funds to mail or print flyers or
7 other promotional materials intended to bring about his election or
8 reelection.

9 (2) No official or employee of the state or a political subdivision of
10 the state shall authorize the use of public funds for a television, radio,
11 movie theater, billboard, bus poster, newspaper or magazine
12 promotional campaign or advertisement, which (A) features the name,

13 face or voice of a candidate for public office, or (B) promotes the
14 nomination or election of a candidate for public office. [during the
15 five-month period preceding the election being held for the office
16 which the candidate described in this subdivision is seeking.]

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Elect. Enforcement Com.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Current law prohibits state and municipal officials and employees from allowing public funds to be spent on media advertisements featuring a candidate for public office for the five months preceding an election. This bill removes the time limitation, thus banning the use of public funds at any time.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission would potentially have a workload increase to advise the candidates of the new restriction and the number of complaints filed with the commission may rise. The increase is not expected to be significant and should be handled within existing appropriations.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5622

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PROMOTIONAL ADVERTISING FEATURING ELECTED OFFICIALS

SUMMARY:

Current law prohibits state and municipal officials and employees from allowing public funds to be spent on TV, radio, movie theatre, billboard, bus poster, newspaper, or magazine promotional campaigns or advertisements featuring the name, face, or voice of a candidate for public office, or promoting a candidate's nomination or election, for the five months preceding the election. This bill removes the time limitation, thus banning the use of public funds for these purposes at any time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0