



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 303**

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 533

*Senate, April 4, 2007*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective December 31, 2007, and applicable to*  
2 *elections held on and after January 1, 2008*) As used in this section and  
3 section 2 of this act:

4 (1) "Immediate family" means any spouse, child or dependent  
5 relative who resides in the individual's household.

6 (2) "Individual" means a natural person.

7 (3) "Municipality" means a town, city or borough.

8 (4) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, trust,  
9 corporation, union, association, firm, partnership, committee, club or  
10 other organization or group of persons.

11 (5) "Public official" means an elected official, whether paid or  
12 unpaid or full or part time, of a municipality or a political subdivision  
13 thereof, or a district, including candidates for the office and shall also  
14 include a district officer elected pursuant to section 7-327 of the general  
15 statutes.

16 (6) "District" means a district established pursuant to section 7-324  
17 of the general statutes.

18 (7) "Contribution" means "contribution" as defined in section 9-601a  
19 of the general statutes.

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective December 31, 2007, and applicable to elections*  
21 *held on and after January 1, 2008*) No public official shall solicit or accept  
22 a contribution of more than fifty dollars in any one election cycle from:  
23 (1) A person that, to the official's knowledge, is doing business with  
24 the municipality or district in which the official is employed, (2) an  
25 individual in the immediate family of a person that, to the official's  
26 knowledge, is doing business with said municipality or district, or (3)  
27 an individual who is an employee of a person that, to the official's  
28 knowledge, is doing business with said municipality or district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>December 31, 2007, and applicable to elections held on and after January 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>December 31, 2007, and applicable to elections held on and after January 1, 2008</i>	New section

**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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 08 \$</b>	<b>FY 09 \$</b>
Elect. Enforcement Com.	GF - Cost	70,000	140,000
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits)	GF - Cost	18,000	84,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill restricts all public officials from soliciting or accepting contributions in excess of \$50 from any person doing business with the municipality or district in which the official is employed. The bill would require the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to educate a broader class of persons subject to the restrictions with respect to the municipal campaign finance laws.

Due to the anticipated increase in requests for opinions concerning the application of the new limitations and restrictions, as well as an increase in complaints, investigations, and enforcement actions, the SEEC would require two attorneys<sup>1</sup>. One attorney would handle compliance questions and opinions, and the other attorney would handle the increase in investigations and enforcement actions. An indeterminate number of new complaints filed with the SEEC is

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<sup>1</sup> The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated first year fringe benefit rate for a new employee as a percentage of average salary is 25.8%, effective July 1, 2006. The first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System (SERS). The SERS 2006-07 fringe benefit rate is 34.4%, which when combined with the non pension fringe benefit rate totals 60.2%.

anticipated, resulting in a potential minimal revenue gain to the state.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 533*****AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits elected municipal and district officials and candidates for such offices from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions in excess of \$50 during any election cycle from people and entities they know are doing, or are related to people doing, business with their municipality or district. The people and entities the bill covers are (1) the spouse, child, or dependent relative of people doing business with the municipal or district; (2) an official's or candidate's employee; and (3) businesses, unions, committees, clubs, and other people and organizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 2007 and applicable to elections held on and after January 1, 2008.

**BACKGROUND*****Individual Contributions to Candidates for Municipal Office***

The chief executive officer of a town, city, or borough may accept up to \$1,000 in campaign contributions from individuals. Other municipal candidates may accept up to \$250.

***Solicitations by State Officials and Candidates for State Office***

Statewide officers, legislators, their agents, and candidates for statewide and legislative office cannot solicit contributions from a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor on behalf of any exploratory or candidate committee established by a candidate for public office.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/19/2007)