



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 266

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 448

Senate, March 31, 2008

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 PROBATE JUDGES AND REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1,
2 2009, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall submit to the
3 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
4 of matters relating to elections proposed legislation to expand the
5 Citizens' Election Program to candidates for election to the offices of
6 judge of probate and registrar of voters. Such proposed legislation
7 shall include, but not be limited to, the appropriate amount of
8 qualifying contributions for such candidates, the grant amounts that
9 the qualified candidate committee for such candidates shall be eligible
10 to receive from the Citizens' Election Fund and any requisite
11 application procedures for such candidates. Concomitantly, the State
12 Elections Enforcement Commission shall submit data to such
13 committee indicating the projected cost of including the offices of
14 judge of probate and registrar of voters in the Citizens' Election

- 15 Program and an assessment of whether such inclusion is sustainable
- 16 with the Citizens' Election Fund's existing sources of revenue.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Elect. Enforcement Com.	GF - Cost	Less than \$15,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to draft proposed legislation expanding the Citizens' Election Program to the judges of probate and the registrars of voters and submit it to the Government Administration and Elections committee by January 1, 2009.

The SEEC would need to hire a temporary position in order to gather the data and compile the information necessary to help the SEEC make an informed decision about the spending limits and the projected costs of expanding the program for these campaigns. This is anticipated to cost about \$8,000. The SEEC enlisted the services of the University of Connecticut Center for Survey Research and Analysis to conduct a survey to project program participation rates for the 2008 General Assembly election. These services cost \$6,700. The SEEC would utilize the same methodology to project the participation in the aforementioned campaigns. The drafting of the legislative proposal would be completed by in house legal staff. The total cost to the SEEC would be less than \$15,000.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 448*****AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE JUDGES AND REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.*****SUMMARY:**

By January 1, 2009, the bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission to submit to the Government Administration and Elections Committee (1) proposed legislation that expands the Citizens' Election Program to candidates for judge of probate and registrar of voter, (2) the projected cost of expanding the program to include these candidates, and (3) an assessment of whether the expansion is sustainable within the program's existing revenue sources.

The proposed legislation must at least designate the amount of qualifying contributions candidates must raise, the grants they would receive as program participants, and any required application procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Citizens' Election Program***

The program is a voluntary one that provides full public financing to qualified candidates for statewide and legislative offices. The program receives financing from the Citizens' Election Fund. The fund receives (1) proceeds from sales of abandoned property in the state's custody; (2) voluntary contributions from individuals, businesses, organizations, and party and political committees; (3) contributions of surpluses from campaign committees, exploratory committees, and certain other committees that dissolve; and (4) its own investment

earnings. In the case of a shortfall, it also receives corporation tax revenues.

At the end of 2007, the fund contained almost \$36 million. By the 2008 general election, the fund is expected to contain in excess of \$50 million.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9 Nay 3 (03/10/2008)