



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 573

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6661

House of Representatives, April 8, 2009

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. SPALLONE of the 36th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN DONATIONS UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 9-704 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (d) After a candidate committee receives the applicable aggregate
5 amount of qualifying contributions under subsection (a) of this section,
6 the candidate committee [shall] may transmit any additional
7 contributions that it receives to the State Treasurer for deposit in the
8 Citizens' Election Fund or may return any such additional contribution
9 to the individual who made such contribution.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	9-704(d)
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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 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Elect. Enforcement Com.	Citizens' Election Fund - Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal
Elect. Enforcement Com.	Citizens' Election Fund - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows candidates who participate in the Citizens' Elections Program (CEP) the option of returning excess contributions above their level to qualify for the program to certain contributors. Currently, the excess contributions are deposited into the Citizens' Election Fund. To the extent that these contributions are returned to their contributors, the Citizens' Election Fund would experience a revenue loss, which is not expected to be significant. Based on the time required to conduct an audit during the grant application process, a seasonal accounting position may be required to monitor and conduct additional auditing processes in order to ensure compliance with the CEP's requirements.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6661

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN DONATIONS UNDER THE
CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.***

SUMMARY:

This bill gives candidates who participate in the Citizens' Election Program (participating candidates) and raise the required amount of qualifying contributions the option of (1) returning additional contributions they receive to the contributor or (2) transmitting them to the state treasurer for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF).

Under current law, participating candidates must remit additional contributions they receive to the CEF. They may use these contributions as a "buffer" in the event that the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) determines any reported qualifying contributions are not valid. Under the bill, contributions candidates return to contributors do not count toward the buffer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

BACKGROUND

In August 2007, the SEEC issued Declaratory Ruling 2007-03, authorizing participating candidates who raise the qualifying threshold to raise, but not spend, additional contributions to use as a buffer. These additional contributions may replace reported qualifying contributions that the SEEC determines do not meet the qualifying criteria. Once the candidate meets the qualifying threshold, the remaining additional contributions stay in the CEF.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/20/2009)