



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

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**House Bill 6531 – An Act Concerning Political Committee Biennial Registration and
Restrictions on Lobbyist Contributions and Solicitations During Session**

The State Elections Enforcement Commission provides the following testimony in **support** of **House Bill 6531** which represents the Commission's proposal which replaces the political committee certification requirement with respect to the sessional lobbyist ban, with a much simpler biennial registration requirement using the existing SEEC Form 3 (Political Committee Registration Form). This bill streamlines the process, makes the job of treasurers easier and saves agency resources.

Under current law, most ongoing political committees are required to file, in addition to their regular financial disclosure statements, certain certifications with the SEEC: (1) a B-2 certification indicating that they are not subject to the prohibition on receiving lobbyist contributions pursuant to General Statutes § 9-610 (e) (that is, they were not established and are not controlled by a statewide official or member of the General Assembly, candidate for such offices or their agent); and (2) a B-3 certification indicating whether or not they are established or controlled by a communicator or client lobbyist. Based on these certifications, the Commission creates two lists it disseminates to the public and the leadership of the General Assembly: (1) a list of political committees prohibited from receiving lobbyist contributions during the legislative session; and (2) a list of political committees prohibited from making such contributions because they were established by a lobbyist.

The existing system has caused significant confusion for political committees and their treasurers. In direct response to this confusion, the Commission is proposing replacing the existing certification regime. **House Bill 6531** will greatly simplify and streamline this process by providing for biennial re-registration of ongoing political committees on November 15th of each even numbered year using the existing political committee registration form (SEEC Form 3). This form already captures the pertinent information about whether or not the committee is a prohibited recipient or contributor under the sessional lobbyist ban. Based on these amended registration forms, the SEEC will continue to generate and disseminate the two lists of prohibited recipients and contributors during the session. This new biennial registration requirement will also insure that, at a minimum, political committees have updated registration information on file and available to the public every two years.

Thank you for your consideration of our Commission's proposal.