



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 273**

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 228

*Senate, April 2, 2014*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The State Elections Enforcement  
2 Commission may establish, within available appropriations, a pilot  
3 program to provide assistance to town clerks of not more than twenty  
4 municipalities with the completion of some or all of their filing  
5 repository duties under section 9-603 of the general statutes. The  
6 commission shall provide assistance to town clerks in accordance with  
7 this section on such terms and in such manner as the commission  
8 prescribes. The commission shall establish an application procedure  
9 for the program and criteria for the selection of municipalities. A town  
10 clerk may apply, if so directed by vote of the town's legislative body, to  
11 participate in the program. Each municipality selected to participate in  
12 the program shall implement a plan designed by the commission to  
13 transfer some or all of the town clerk's filing repository duties to the  
14 commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of

15 section 9-623 of the general statutes, the commission may waive any  
 16 late filing fee described in said subsection (b) for any candidate or  
 17 treasurer in a municipality that is participating in the pilot program.  
 18 Said pilot program shall terminate on April 7, 2016.

19 (b) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall conduct a  
 20 study, within available appropriations, of the efficiency of transferring  
 21 to the commission from the offices of the town clerks some or all of the  
 22 filing repository duties under section 9-603 of the general statutes  
 23 pursuant to the pilot program under subsection (a) of this section. The  
 24 study shall include an analysis of the: (1) Cost to municipalities of  
 25 maintaining the filing repository function, including, but not limited  
 26 to, costs associated with personnel, equipment, software, hardware  
 27 and server space; and (2) capacity of the offices of the town clerks to  
 28 assist with centralized filing repository duties, including, but not  
 29 limited to, the availability of personnel and equipment. Not later than  
 30 February 1, 2017, the commission shall report its findings and any  
 31 recommendations for legislation to make permanent the pilot program  
 32 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with the  
 33 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
 34 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 35 relating to elections.

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

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill, which establishes a pilot program under which the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) assists up to 20 municipalities with retaining required election-related documentation, has no fiscal impact.

The pilot program administered by the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact due to the existing capacity of both agency infrastructure and personnel. From an infrastructure and systems standpoint, the eCRIS system utilized by candidates for General Assembly and Statewide office has capacity to accept and store municipal filings for the pilot program without hardware expansion or software upgrades, and the associated costs. In addition, the timing of municipal election cycles, relative to General Assembly and Statewide election cycles, is such that the municipal elections fall in a period of lesser workload for SEEC staff.

### ***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**SB 228**

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14    Nay 0    (03/14/2014)