



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6749

January Session, 2015



AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-760 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-192a, the State
4 Elections Enforcement Commission shall establish a pilot program for
5 the public financing of campaigns of candidates for the municipal
6 offices of chief executive officer, municipal clerk and legislative body
7 member, who agree to limit campaign fund-raising and expenditures,
8 at a municipal election in not more than [three] five municipalities. The
9 commission shall establish an application procedure for the program
10 and criteria for the selection of municipalities. The commission shall
11 not select a municipality to participate in the program unless the
12 legislative body of the municipality or, in the case of a municipality in
13 which the legislative body is a town meeting, the board of selectmen,
14 consents to such participation. Each municipality selected to
15 participate shall submit an implementation plan to the commission, for
16 its approval. Public financing under said program shall not be deemed
17 to be public funds for the purposes of subsection (d) of section 9-610. A
18 candidate for any such municipal office who decides not to participate
19 in such program shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 155.

20 (b) At the conclusion of each municipal election cycle, the
21 commission shall assess the performance of each participating
22 municipality under such municipality's implementation plan for (1)
23 sufficiency of such plan's funding mechanism, (2) efficacy of such
24 plan's administrative apparatus, including, but not limited to, strength
25 of enforcement, timeliness of reporting, thoroughness of auditing and
26 adequacy of staffing and other resources, and (3) any other factor the
27 commission may deem relevant in assessing such performance. Not
28 later than March first of the year following each municipal election
29 cycle, the commission shall submit a report on its findings and
30 recommendations, including any necessary legislation, to the joint
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of
33 section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-760

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*