



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 580**

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6749

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2015*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***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 Section 9-760 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.*

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:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill expands the existing pilot program for public financing of certain municipal campaigns from three municipalities to five. The State Elections Enforcement Commission, which oversees the program currently, is not anticipated to incur expenses in the management of the expanded program.

Towns that participate in the program are anticipated to incur costs to manage the program and provide candidate grants. The level of costs incurred by participating municipalities will be dependent upon the number, size, and type of grants offered under the program as well as administrative structures created to manage it. Participation in the program, and subsequent incurring of costs, is voluntary for municipalities.

**The Out Years**

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6749*****AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from three to five, the maximum number of municipalities that may participate in the state's municipal public campaign financing pilot program. PA 05-5, October 25 Special Session, required the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to establish the pilot, which currently has one participating municipality, New Haven. Under the bill, four additional municipalities may participate.

The bill requires SEEC to assess the performance of participating municipalities, including New Haven, after each municipal election. The assessment must examine any factor the commission deems relevant and, at a minimum, cover the (1) sufficiency of each municipality's funding mechanism and (2) efficacy of its administrative apparatus, including enforcement strength, reporting timeliness, auditing thoroughness, and adequacy of staffing and other resources.

Biennially by March 1 following the municipal election, SEEC must report its findings and recommendations, including for legislation, to the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Municipal Public Campaign Financing Pilot Program***

By law, the pilot program covers the municipal offices of chief executive officer, municipal clerk, and municipal legislative body

member. Municipalities SEEC selects to participate must (1) obtain approval from their legislative body (or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting); (2) submit an implementation plan for the commission's approval; and (3) fund their programs without state assistance. Candidates who elect to participate must agree to limit campaign contributions and expenditures; those who choose not to participate must abide by applicable state campaign finance laws.

PA 05-5, October 25 Special Session, required SEEC to issue a one-time report on municipal public financing. Pursuant to that requirement, the commission issued a report in 2009 analyzing New Haven's program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9      Nay 6      (03/25/2015)