



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

**Raised Bill No. 342**

LCO No. 2163



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN  
REPORTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a  
4 [software] web-based program [or programs] for the preparation and  
5 electronic submission of financial disclosure statements required by  
6 [section 9-608] chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, and (2) prescribe the  
7 standard reporting format and specifications for [other software  
8 programs created by vendors] any software program created by a  
9 vendor for such purpose. No software program created by a vendor  
10 may be used for the electronic submission of such financial disclosure  
11 statements [, until] unless the commission determines that the program  
12 provides for the standard reporting format [,] and complies with the  
13 specifications [, which are] prescribed under subdivision (2) of this  
14 subsection for [vendor software programs] any such program. The

15 commission shall provide training in the use of the [software program  
16 or programs] web-based program created by the commission.

17 (b) [The] On and after July 1, 2017, the following shall file all  
18 financial disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157,  
19 inclusive, by electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
20 section: (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory  
21 committee for each candidate for nomination or election to the office of  
22 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
23 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State, [who] state senator, state  
24 representative or judge of probate that raises or spends [two hundred  
25 fifty] one thousand dollars or more, [during an election campaign shall  
26 file in electronic form all financial disclosure statements required by  
27 section 9-608 by either transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic  
28 storage media containing the contents of such statements to the State  
29 Elections Enforcement Commission or transmitting the statements on-  
30 line to said commission. Each such treasurer shall use either (1) a  
31 software program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of  
32 subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements, or (2) another  
33 software program which provides for the standard reporting format,  
34 and complies with the specifications, which are prescribed by the  
35 commission under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, for  
36 all such statements. The commission shall accept any statement that  
37 uses any such software program] (2) the treasurer of any state central  
38 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
39 committee, (3) the treasurer of any political committee or town  
40 committee required to be registered with the commission that (A)  
41 raises or spends one thousand dollars or more during the current  
42 calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one thousand dollars or more in  
43 the preceding regular election cycle, and (4) the treasurer of any  
44 committee, or any other person, who makes or obligates to make any  
45 independent expenditure and who is required to file a financial  
46 disclosure statement of any such independent expenditure in  
47 accordance with the provisions of section 9-601d. Once any such

48 candidate committee, exploratory committee, political committee or  
49 town committee has raised or spent [two hundred fifty] one thousand  
50 dollars or more during an election campaign, all previously filed  
51 statements required by [said section 9-608] chapters 155 to 157,  
52 inclusive, which were not filed [in electronic form] by electronic  
53 submission shall be refiled in such form [, using such a software  
54 program,] not later than the date on which the treasurer of the  
55 committee is required to file [the next regular statement under said  
56 section 9-608] its next financial disclosure statement.

57 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other  
58 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends  
59 one thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial  
60 disclosure statements required by [section 9-608] chapters 155 to 157,  
61 inclusive, with the commission, and (2) the treasurer of any political  
62 committee or [party committee] town committee that neither raises nor  
63 spends one thousand dollars or more who is required to file the  
64 financial disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157,  
65 inclusive, may file [in electronic form] any such financial disclosure  
66 statements [required by said section 9-608] by electronic submission  
67 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. [Such filings may be made by  
68 either transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic storage media  
69 containing the contents of such statements to the proper authority  
70 under section 9-603 or transmitting the statements on-line to such  
71 proper authority. Each such treasurer shall use either (A) a software  
72 program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of  
73 subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements filed in electronic  
74 form, or (B) another software program which provides for the  
75 standard reporting format, and complies with the specifications, which  
76 are prescribed by the commission under subdivision (2) of subsection  
77 (a) of this section, for all such statements filed in electronic form. The  
78 proper authority under section 9-603 shall accept any statement that  
79 uses any such software program.]

80 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, upon the written

81 request of a treasurer or any other person described in subdivisions (1)  
82 to (4), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, the commission may  
83 waive the requirement to file by electronic submission pursuant to  
84 subsection (a) of this section if such treasurer or other person  
85 demonstrates good cause.

86 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is  
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
88 *passage*):

89 (d) At the time of filing statements required under this section, the  
90 treasurer of each candidate committee shall send to the candidate a  
91 duplicate statement and the treasurer of each party committee and  
92 each political committee other than an exploratory committee shall  
93 send to the chairman of the committee a duplicate statement. Each  
94 statement required to be filed with the commission under this section,  
95 section 9-601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712 shall be deemed to be  
96 filed in a timely manner if: (1) For a statement filed as a hard copy,  
97 including, but not limited to, a statement delivered by the United  
98 States Postal Service, courier service, parcel service or hand delivery,  
99 the statement is received by the commission by five o'clock p.m. on the  
100 day the statement is required to be filed, (2) for a statement authorized  
101 by the commission to be filed electronically, including, but not limited  
102 to, a statement filed via dedicated electronic mail, facsimile machine, a  
103 web-based program created by the commission or other electronic  
104 means, the statement is transmitted to the commission not later than  
105 eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. on the day the statement is required to be  
106 filed, or (3) for a statement required to be filed pursuant to section 9-  
107 601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712, by the deadline specified in each  
108 such section. Any other filing required to be filed with a town clerk  
109 pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be filed in a timely manner  
110 if it is delivered by hand to the office of the town clerk in accordance  
111 with the provisions of section 9-603 before four-thirty o'clock p.m. or  
112 postmarked by the United States Postal Service before midnight on the  
113 required filing day. If the day for any filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday

114 or legal holiday, the statement shall be filed on the next business day  
115 thereafter. The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall not levy  
116 a penalty upon a treasurer for failure to file a hard copy of a statement  
117 in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of this section, if  
118 such treasurer has a copy of the statement time stamped by the State  
119 Elections Enforcement Commission that shows timely receipt of the  
120 statement, or the treasurer has a return receipt from the United States  
121 Postal Service or a similar receipt from a commercial delivery service  
122 confirming timely [receipt] delivery of such statement [by] was made  
123 or should have been made to said commission.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-675
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-608(d)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) require electronic filing of campaign finance disclosure statements with the State Elections Enforcement Commission for certain committees that raise or spend one thousand dollars or more, except when the commission waives such requirement on a demonstration of good cause, and (2) give the commission discretion in imposing fees for late filing of such statements in light of evidence that such statements should reasonably have been delivered and received by said commission by the applicable deadline.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*