



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 342

February Session, 2016

* SB00342GAE__032116__ *

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 Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 software
12 program provides for the standard reporting format [,] and complies
13 with the specifications [, which are] prescribed under subdivision (2) of
14 this subsection for [vendor software programs] any such software
15 program. The commission shall provide training in the use of the
16 [software program or programs] web-based program created by the
17 commission.

18 (b) On and after July 1, 2017, the following shall file all financial

19 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, by
20 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section: (1) The
21 treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory committee for
22 each candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,
23 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State
24 Treasurer, [or] Secretary of the State, [who] state senator, state
25 representative or judge of probate that raises or spends [two hundred
26 fifty] one thousand dollars or more, [during an election campaign shall
27 file in electronic form all financial disclosure statements required by
28 section 9-608 by either transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic
29 storage media containing the contents of such statements to the State
30 Elections Enforcement Commission or transmitting the statements on-
31 line to said commission. Each such treasurer shall use either (1) a
32 software program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of
33 subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements, or (2) another
34 software program which provides for the standard reporting format,
35 and complies with the specifications, which are prescribed by the
36 commission under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, for
37 all such statements. The commission shall accept any statement that
38 uses any such software program] (2) the treasurer of any state central
39 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
40 committee, (3) the treasurer of any other political committee or town
41 committee required to be registered with the commission that (A)
42 raises or spends one thousand dollars or more during the current
43 calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one thousand dollars or more in
44 the preceding regular election cycle, and (4) the treasurer of any
45 committee, or any other person, who makes or obligates to make any
46 independent expenditure and who is required to file a financial
47 disclosure statement of any such independent expenditure in
48 accordance with the provisions of section 9-601d. Once any such
49 candidate committee or exploratory committee has raised or spent
50 [two hundred fifty] one thousand dollars or more during an election
51 campaign, all previously filed statements required by [said section 9-
52 608] chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, which were not filed [in electronic
53 form] by electronic submission shall be refilled in such [form, using

54 such a software program,] manner not later than the date on which the
55 treasurer of [the] such committee is required to file [the next regular
56 statement under said section 9-608] its next financial disclosure
57 statement.

58 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other
59 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends
60 one thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial
61 disclosure statements required by [section 9-608] chapters 155 to 157,
62 inclusive, with the commission, and (2) the treasurer of any political
63 committee or [party committee] town committee that neither raises nor
64 spends one thousand dollars or more who is required to file the
65 financial disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157,
66 inclusive, may file [in electronic form] any such financial disclosure
67 statements [required by said section 9-608. Such filings may be made
68 by 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.] by electronic submission pursuant to
80 subsection (a) of this section.

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

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

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

121 statement [,] or the treasurer has a return receipt from the United
122 States Postal Service or a similar receipt from a commercial delivery
123 service confirming timely [receipt] delivery of such statement [by] was
124 made 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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "software" was inserted before two instances of "program" in the second sentence for clarity; in Section 1(b), "form" was bracketed and "manner" was inserted before "not later than" in the last sentence for accuracy, and technical changes were made; and in Section 2(d), commas were bracketed in the last sentence for proper grammar.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*