

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 342**

LCO No. 3438

**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 Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 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 other 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 or exploratory committee has raised or spent
49 [two hundred fifty] one thousand dollars or more during an election
50 campaign, all previously filed statements required by [said section 9-
51 608] chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, which were not filed [in electronic
52 form] by electronic submission shall be refiled in such form [, using
53 such a software program,] not later than the date on which the

54 treasurer of the committee is required to file [the next regular
55 statement under said section 9-608] its next financial disclosure
56 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. Such filings may be made
67 by either transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic storage media
68 containing the contents of such statements to the proper authority
69 under section 9-603 or transmitting the statements on-line to such
70 proper authority. Each such treasurer shall use either (A) a software
71 program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of
72 subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements filed in electronic
73 form, or (B) another software program which provides for the
74 standard reporting format, and complies with the specifications, which
75 are prescribed by the commission under subdivision (2) of subsection
76 (a) of this section, for all such statements filed in electronic form. The
77 proper authority under section 9-603 shall accept any statement that
78 uses any such software program.] by electronic submission pursuant to
79 subsection (a) of this section.

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)