AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS AND USE OF FUNDS UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

By law, candidate committee treasurers may pay consultants or other professional persons for campaign or committee services. This bill requires consultants and other professionals that work with candidates participating in the Citizens’ Election Program (CEP) to register with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) under certain conditions.

Specifically, if a participating candidate’s treasurer spends 15% or more, in the aggregate, of the candidate committee’s Citizens’ Election Fund grants on a consultant’s or other professional’s campaign or committee services, the bill requires that person to register with SEEC by filing an affidavit. The affidavit must certify in writing the consultant’s or professional’s intent to abide by the CEP’s spending limits. Generally, by law, a participating candidate’s committee must limit its spending to (1) prescribed amounts of qualifying contributions and candidate’s personal funds and (2) grants received under the program.

Under the bill, the registration applies to the candidate committee with which the consultant or professional works. SEEC must prepare and make publicly available a list of each registered consultant or other professional for each participating CEP candidate.

By law, the CEP is the state's voluntary public campaign financing system. Participating legislative and statewide office candidates are eligible to receive state grants to fund their campaigns if they (1) receive qualifying contributions; (2) agree to abide by the spending limits; and (3) comply with other requirements, including for
documenting and reporting expenditures.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

*Related Bill*

sHB 7210, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, (1) also requires consultants and other professionals that work with participating CEP candidates to register with SEEC and (2) defines “consultant” and “subvendor” for campaign finance purposes and establishes reporting requirements for them.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16  Nay 0  (04/01/2019)