OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 1045

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND FILING OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATEMENTS.

SUMMARY

For each state election cycle, this bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to prescribe the standard format and specifications for any platform that statewide or legislative office candidates’ exploratory or candidate committees use to receive credit card contributions. The bill also prohibits any other platform from being used for credit card contributions, unless SEEC determines it complies with the required standards and specifications. Under the bill, “state election cycle” means the period beginning the day after a state election and ending the day of the next state election.

In addition, the bill requires SEEC to prescribe the certification form that individuals must use when contributing over $50, separately or in the aggregate, to (1) candidate or exploratory committees for statewide or legislative office candidates, (2) political committees authorized to contribute to these candidates, or (3) party committees. Under current law, SEEC prepares a sample form for this purpose.

By law, individuals use the form to certify that they are not prohibited from making a contribution because of their status as a communicator lobbyist, immediate family member of such a lobbyist, state contractor, prospective state contractor, or principal of such a contractor (CGS §§ 9-610(g)-(k) & 9-612(f) to (h)). SEEC makes the form available to contributors and committee treasurers.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020, for the credit card contribution platform and upon passage for the contributor certification form.
COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea  16    Nay  0    (03/20/2019)