Bill No.: SB-914
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF COORDINATED AND INDEPENDENT POLITICAL SPENDING.
Vote Date: 4/1/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/27/2019

Disclaimer: The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.

SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Co-Sponsors

REASONS FOR BILL:
To make sure that the definitions of coordinated spending and independent spending are spelled out clearly in statute.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel, State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC): testified that this proposal is modeled after a campaign finance reform bill that is making its way through Congress as a way to prevent Super PAC and candidate coordination. He further stated that the provisions in this bill will prevent the need for expensive investigations that occur long after an election is held.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Judith Lhamon, Vice President for Public Issues, League of Women Voters, CT: testified that the language in this bill is more closely aligned to the true purpose of campaign finance reform.

Cheri Quickmire, Executive Director, Common Cause in Connecticut: testified that this bill will allow Connecticut voters to know who is spending money on our elections. She further
stated that Connecticut is a nationwide leader on campaign finance issues, and that this legislation will strengthen that position.

**Tom Swan, Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action Group:** testified that this legislation will limit the ability of “dirty money” to undermine our democracy.

**Brennon Mendez, New Haven:** testified that this bill would give campaigns clear guidance as to the meaning of “coordination” when it comes to campaign spending, and provides clear definitions that will help in the investigations of campaign finance violations.

**Also in support:**

Beth Owens, West Hartford

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Scott Shepard, Policy Director, Yankee Institute for Public Policy:** testified that the definition of “coordinated spender” in this bill is too broad and raises First Amendment issues. He stated that innocuous conversations and interactions could become violations under these definitions.

**Reported by:** Melissa Russel  
**Assistant Clerk**

**Date:** 4/10/19