Bill No.: SB-1045
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND FILING OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATEMENTS.
Vote Date: 3/20/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/13/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
Candidates and their treasurers whose committees participated in CEP would like to have a standardized online interface for collecting online contributions and would also interface with CRIS, SEEC’s electronic filing system.

Substitute Language: Makes the change that contributions in excess of $50.00 needs to be reported on a form provided by the SEEC.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
State of Connecticut, State Elections Enforcement Commission, Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel: SEEC supports this bill. It authorizes them to develop online portals for campaigns to collect online contributions, ensures secure verifiable contributions for CEP candidates without prior ad hoc review by SEEC, easier for campaigns, more streamlined for all concerned, time and money savings overall.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG): The frustration of candidates and their treasurers was evident during the 2018 campaigns due to their difficulties of getting their applications approved in a timely manner. We want to raise concerns with SEEC’s opinion pertaining to online membership organizations and limiting their members rights of association. These groups should be able to engage their members in political activities and endorse candidates in CT.
Mann Hansen, CTO and Founder of Day Campaign: SEEC should have the ability to create standards and specifications for credit card contribution platforms for vendors to adhere to. Further, SEEC should create a certification or review process of available vendors providing this service. By creating these standards SEEC will be able to forge a public-private partnership as envisioned by Governor Lamont.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Maureen O'Reilly
Assistant Clerk

Date: 4/2/19