AN ACT PERMITTING THE USE OF CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO OFFSET A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE'S CHILDCARE COSTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 9-601 of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (32) as follows (Effective July 1, 2020):

(NEW) (32) "Childcare services" means services rendered to a candidate for the care of any child who is under thirteen years of age and for whom such candidate is the parent or legal guardian, which services are necessary as a direct result of campaign activity that would not exist but for such candidate's campaign.

Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):
Governor’s Bill No. 14

(e) (1) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, on permissible expenditures under subsection (g) of section 9-607, as amended by this act, for qualified candidate committees receiving grants from the fund under sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive.

(2) Expenditures for childcare services made by the qualified candidate committee of a participating candidate shall be deemed permissible if such expenditures (A) are, in the aggregate, not more than the amount of qualifying contributions permitted under section 9-704, and (B) otherwise comply with all other regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 9-710 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):

(c) A candidate who intends to participate in the Citizens’ Election Program may provide personal funds for such candidate's campaign for nomination or election in an amount not exceeding: (1) For a candidate for the office of Governor, twenty thousand dollars; (2) for a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State, ten thousand dollars; (3) for a candidate for the office of state senator, two thousand dollars; or (4) for a candidate for the office of state representative, one thousand dollars. Such personal funds shall not constitute a qualifying contribution under section 9-704. For the purposes of this section, expenditures for childcare services made directly from any such candidate's personal funds and for which such candidate does not seek reimbursement from his or her candidate committee, as provided in subsection (k) of section 9-607, shall not count toward the amounts provided in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, as applicable, of this subsection.

Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
(Effective July 1, 2020):

(2) Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, any treasurer, in accomplishing the lawful purposes of the committee, may pay the expenses of: (A) Advertising in electronic and print media; (B) any other form of printed advertising or communications including "thank you" advertising after the election; (C) campaign items, including, but not limited to, brochures, leaflets, flyers, invitations, stationery, envelopes, reply cards, return envelopes, campaign business cards, direct mailings, postcards, palm cards, "thank you" notes, sample ballots and other similar items; (D) political banners and billboards; (E) political paraphernalia, which is customarily given or sold to supporters including, but not limited to, campaign buttons, stickers, pins, pencils, pens, matchbooks, balloons, pads, calendars, magnets, key chains, hats, tee shirts, sweatshirts, frisbees, pot holders, jar openers and other similar items; (F) purchasing office supplies for campaign or political purposes, campaign photographs, raffle or other fund-raising permits required by law, fund-raiser prizes, postage, express mail delivery services, bulk mail permits, and computer supplies and services; (G) banking service charges to maintain campaign and political accounts; (H) subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals which enhance the candidacy of the candidate or party; (I) lease or rental of office space for campaign or political purposes and expenses in connection therewith including, but not limited to, furniture, parking, storage space, utilities and maintenance, provided a party committee or political committee organized for ongoing political activities may purchase such office space; (J) lease or rental of vehicles for campaign use only; (K) lease, rental or use charges of any ordinary and necessary campaign office equipment including, but not limited to, copy machines, telephones, postage meters, facsimile machines, computer hardware, software and printers, provided a party committee or political committee organized for ongoing political activities may purchase office equipment, and provided further that a candidate committee or a political committee, other than a political committee formed for ongoing political activities or an exploratory committee, may purchase computer equipment; (L)
compensation for campaign or committee staff, fringe benefits, payroll taxes and childcare services, provided (i) the candidate and any member of his immediate family shall not receive compensation, and (ii) compensation for childcare services is reasonable and customary for the services rendered; (M) travel, meals and lodging expenses of speakers, campaign or committee workers, the candidate and the candidate’s spouse for political and campaign purposes; (N) fund raising; (O) reimbursements to candidates and campaign or committee workers made in accordance with the provisions of this section for campaign-related expenses for which a receipt is received by the treasurer; (P) campaign or committee services of attorneys, accountants, consultants or other professional persons for campaign activities, obtaining or contesting ballot status, nomination, or election, and compliance with this chapter; (Q) purchasing campaign finance reports; (R) repaying permissible campaign loans made to the committee that are properly reported and refunding contributions received from an impermissible source or in excess of the limitations set forth in this chapter; (S) conducting polls concerning any political party, issue, candidate or individual; (T) gifts to campaign or committee workers or purchasing flowers or other commemorative items for political purposes not to exceed one hundred dollars to any one recipient in a calendar year or for the campaign, as the case may be; (U) purchasing tickets or advertising from charities, inaugural committees, or other civic organizations if for a political purpose, for any candidate, a candidate’s spouse, a member of a candidate's campaign staff, or members of committees; (V) the inauguration of an elected candidate by that candidate's candidate committee; (W) hiring of halls, rooms, music and other entertainment for political meetings and events; (X) reasonable compensation for public speakers hired by the committee; (Y) transporting electors to the polls and other get-out-the-vote activities on election day; and (Z) any other necessary campaign or political expense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | July 1, 2020 | 9-601 |

LCO No. 531

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Sec. 2 | July 1, 2020 | 9-706(e)
Sec. 3 | July 1, 2020 | 9-710(c)
Sec. 4 | July 1, 2020 | 9-607(g)(2)

**Statement of Purpose:**
To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]