



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 6663**

LCO No. 4980



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-611 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, for  
4 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate  
5 or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for  
6 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to  
7 the office of (1) Governor, in excess of three thousand five hundred  
8 dollars; (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer,  
9 Comptroller or Attorney General, in excess of two thousand dollars; (3)  
10 chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of one  
11 thousand dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one  
12 thousand dollars; or (5) state representative or any other office of a  
13 municipality not previously included in this subsection, in excess of two  
14 hundred fifty dollars. The limits imposed by this subsection shall be  
15 applied separately to primaries and elections.

16 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or  
17 for the benefit of, an exploratory committee, in excess of three hundred  
18 seventy-five dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory  
19 committee certifies on the statement of organization for the exploratory  
20 committee pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604 that the candidate  
21 will not be a candidate for the office of state representative. No  
22 individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the  
23 benefit of, any exploratory committee, in excess of two hundred fifty  
24 dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory committee does not  
25 so certify.

26 (2) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for  
27 the benefit of, a political committee formed by a slate of candidates in a  
28 primary for the office of justice of the peace, in excess of two hundred  
29 fifty dollars.

30 [(c) No individual shall make contributions to such candidates or  
31 committees which in the aggregate exceed thirty thousand dollars for  
32 any single election and primary preliminary to such election.]

33 [(d)] (c) No individual shall make a contribution to any candidate or  
34 committee, other than a contribution in kind, in excess of one hundred  
35 dollars except by personal check or credit card of that individual.

36 [(e)] (d) No individual who is less than eighteen years of age shall  
37 make a contribution or contributions, in excess of thirty dollars to, for  
38 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of: (1) A  
39 candidate or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's  
40 campaign for nomination at a primary to any office; (2) a candidate or a  
41 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for  
42 election to any office; (3) an exploratory committee; (4) any other  
43 political committee in any calendar year; or (5) a party committee in any  
44 calendar year. Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (2) of  
45 section 9-7b, any individual who is less than eighteen years of age who  
46 violates any provision of this subsection shall not be subject to the  
47 provisions of subdivision (2) of section 9-7b.

48 Sec. 2. Section 9-601 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
49 subdivision (32) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

50 (NEW) (32) "Independent expenditure political committee" means a  
51 political committee that makes only (A) independent expenditures, and  
52 (B) contributions to other independent expenditure political  
53 committees.

54 Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is  
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
56 *1, 2021*):

57 (3) "Political committee" means (A) a committee organized by a  
58 business entity or organization, (B) persons other than individuals, or  
59 two or more individuals organized or acting jointly conducting their  
60 activities in or outside the state, (C) an exploratory committee, (D) a  
61 committee established by or on behalf of a slate of candidates in a  
62 primary for the office of justice of the peace, but does not mean a  
63 candidate committee or a party committee, (E) a legislative caucus  
64 committee, [or] (F) a legislative leadership committee, or (G) an  
65 independent expenditure political committee.

66 Sec. 4. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general  
67 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
68 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

69 (g) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "the lawful purposes of the  
70 committee" means: (i) For a candidate committee or exploratory  
71 committee, the promoting of the nomination or election of the candidate  
72 who established the committee, except that after a political party  
73 nominates candidates for election to the offices of Governor and  
74 Lieutenant Governor, whose names shall be so placed on the ballot in  
75 the election that an elector will cast a single vote for both candidates, as  
76 prescribed in section 9-181, a candidate committee established by either  
77 such candidate may also promote the election of the other such  
78 candidate; (ii) for a political committee, other than an independent  
79 expenditure political committee described in subparagraph (A)(iv) of

80 this subdivision, the promoting of (I) a political party, including party  
81 building activities, (II) the success or defeat of candidates for  
82 nomination [and] or election to public office or position subject to the  
83 requirements of this chapter, or (III) the success or defeat of referendum  
84 questions, provided a political committee formed for a single  
85 referendum question shall not promote the success or defeat of any  
86 candidate, and provided further a legislative leadership committee or a  
87 legislative caucus committee may expend funds to defray costs for  
88 conducting legislative or constituency-related business which are not  
89 reimbursed or paid by the state; [and] (iii) for a party committee, the  
90 promoting of the party, party building activities, the candidates of the  
91 party and continuing operating costs of the party; and (iv) for an  
92 independent expenditure political committee, the promoting of (I) a  
93 political party, (II) the success or defeat of candidates for nomination or  
94 election to public office or position subject to the requirements of this  
95 chapter, or (III) the success or defeat of referendum questions, provided  
96 an independent expenditure political committee shall act entirely  
97 independently of a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or  
98 political committee that is not an independent expenditure political  
99 committee, or any agent of such candidate or committee, and (B)  
100 "immediate family" means a spouse or dependent child of a candidate  
101 who resides in the candidate's household.

102 Sec. 5. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section  
103 9-608 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
104 in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

105 (C) (i) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote the  
106 success or defeat of any referendum question, which does not receive  
107 contributions from a business entity or an organization, shall distribute  
108 its surplus to a party committee, to a political committee organized for  
109 ongoing political activities, to a national committee of a political party,  
110 to all contributors to the committee on a prorated basis of contribution,  
111 to state or municipal governments or agencies or to any organization  
112 which is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the  
113 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding

114 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time  
115 amended.

116 (ii) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote the  
117 success or defeat of any referendum question, which receives  
118 contributions from a business entity or an organization, and each  
119 independent expenditure political committee other than an  
120 independent expenditure political committee formed for ongoing  
121 political activities, shall distribute its surplus to all contributors to the  
122 committee on a prorated basis of contribution, to state or municipal  
123 governments or agencies, or to any organization which is tax-exempt  
124 under said provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

125 (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a committee  
126 formed for a single referendum shall not be required to expend its  
127 surplus not later than ninety days after the referendum and may  
128 continue in existence if a substantially similar referendum question on  
129 the same issue will be submitted to the electorate within six months after  
130 the first referendum. If two or more substantially similar referenda on  
131 the same issue are submitted to the electorate, each no more than six  
132 months apart, the committee shall expend such surplus within ninety  
133 days following the date of the last such referendum;

134 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-612 of the general statutes  
135 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
136 *October 1, 2021*):

137 (a) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions in any  
138 one calendar year in excess of ten thousand dollars to the state central  
139 committee of any party, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant  
140 to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a town  
141 committee of any political party, or for the benefit of such committee  
142 pursuant to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a  
143 legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee; [,] or  
144 one thousand dollars to any other political committee other than [(1)]  
145 (A) a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success or  
146 defeat of a referendum question, [(2)] (B) an exploratory committee, [(3)]

147 (C) a political committee established by an organization, or for the  
148 benefit of such committee pursuant to its authorization or request, [or  
149 (4)] (D) a political committee formed by a slate of candidates in a  
150 primary for the office of justice of the peace of the same town, or (E) an  
151 independent expenditure political committee.

152 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
153 subsection and unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, an  
154 individual may make contributions to an independent expenditure  
155 political committee.

156 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution to a political  
157 committee established by an organization which receives its funds from  
158 the organization's treasury. With respect to a political committee  
159 established by an organization which has complied with the provisions  
160 of subsection (b) or (c) of section 9-614, as amended by this act, and has  
161 elected to receive contributions, no individual other than a member of  
162 the organization may make contributions to the committee, in which  
163 case the individual may contribute not more than seven hundred fifty  
164 dollars in any one calendar year to such committee or for the benefit of  
165 such committee pursuant to its authorization or request.

166 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
167 subsection and unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, an  
168 individual may make contributions to an independent expenditure  
169 political committee established by an organization.

170 Sec. 7. Section 9-613 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
171 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

172 (a) [No] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a  
173 business entity shall not make any contributions or expenditures (1) to,  
174 or for the benefit of, any candidate's campaign (A) for election to any  
175 public office or position subject to this chapter, or (B) for nomination at  
176 a primary for any such office or position, or (2) to promote the defeat of  
177 any candidate for any such office or position. [No] A business entity  
178 shall not make any other contributions or expenditures to promote the

179 success or defeat of any political party. [, except as provided in  
180 subsection (b) of this section. No] A business entity shall not establish  
181 more than one political committee. A political committee shall be  
182 deemed to have been established by a business entity if the initial  
183 disbursement or contribution to the committee is made under  
184 subsection (b) of this section or by an officer, director, owner, limited or  
185 general partner or holder of stock constituting five per cent or more of  
186 the total outstanding stock of any class of the business entity.

187 (b) A business entity may make reasonable and necessary transfers or  
188 disbursements to or for the benefit of a political committee established  
189 by such business entity, for the administration of, or solicitation of  
190 contributions to, such political committee. Nonmonetary contributions  
191 by a business entity which are incidental in nature and are directly  
192 attributable to the administration of such political committee shall be  
193 exempt from the reporting requirements of this chapter.

194 (c) The provisions of this section shall not preclude a business entity  
195 from making contributions or expenditures to promote the success or  
196 defeat of a referendum question.

197 (d) [A] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a political  
198 committee organized by a business entity shall not make a contribution  
199 or contributions to or for the benefit of any candidate's campaign for  
200 nomination at a primary or any candidate's campaign for election to the  
201 office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars; (2) Lieutenant  
202 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney  
203 General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) state senator, probate  
204 judge or chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of  
205 one thousand five hundred dollars; (4) state representative, in excess of  
206 seven hundred fifty dollars; or (5) any other office of a municipality not  
207 included in subdivision (3) of this subsection, in excess of three hundred  
208 seventy-five dollars. The limits imposed by this subsection shall apply  
209 separately to primaries and elections and contributions by any such  
210 committee to candidates designated in this subsection shall not exceed  
211 one hundred thousand dollars in the aggregate for any single election

212 and primary preliminary thereto. Contributions to such committees  
213 shall also be subject to the provisions of section 9-618, as amended by  
214 this act, in the case of committees formed for ongoing political activity  
215 or section 9-619, as amended by this act, in the case of committees  
216 formed for a single election or primary.

217 (e) [No] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a political  
218 committee organized by a business entity shall not make a contribution  
219 or contributions to (1) a state central committee of a political party, in  
220 excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in any calendar year, (2)  
221 a town committee of any political party, in excess of one thousand five  
222 hundred dollars in any calendar year, (3) an exploratory committee in  
223 excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars, or (4) any other kind of  
224 political committee, in excess of two thousand dollars in any calendar  
225 year.

226 (f) As used in this subsection, "investment services" means  
227 investment legal services, investment banking services, investment  
228 advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or  
229 brokerage firm services. [No] A political committee established by a  
230 firm which provides investment services and to which the State  
231 Treasurer pays compensation, expenses or fees or issues a contract shall  
232 not make a contribution to, or solicit contributions on behalf of, an  
233 exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a  
234 candidate for nomination or election to the office of State Treasurer  
235 during the term of office of the State Treasurer who does business with  
236 such firm.

237 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of [this section, a corporation,  
238 cooperative association, limited partnership, professional association,  
239 limited liability company or limited liability partnership, whether  
240 formed in this state or any other, acting alone,] subsections (a) to (f),  
241 inclusive, of this section, a business entity may make independent  
242 expenditures.

243 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized by a  
244 business entity shall not make any contribution unless such contribution



245 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

246 Sec. 8. Section 9-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
247 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

248 An organization may make contributions or expenditures, other than  
249 [those made to promote] for the purposes of promoting the success or  
250 defeat of a referendum question, only by first forming its own political  
251 committee. [The] Unless such political committee is an independent  
252 expenditure political committee, the political committee shall then be  
253 authorized to (1) receive funds (A) exclusively from the organization's  
254 treasury or from voluntary contributions made by its members, but not  
255 both, (B) from another political committee, or [,] (C) from a candidate  
256 committee distributing a surplus, and [(1) to] (2) make (A) contributions  
257 or expenditures to, or for the benefit of, a candidate's campaign or a  
258 political party, or [(2) to make] (B) contributions to another political  
259 committee. [No] An organization shall not form more than one political  
260 committee. A political committee shall be deemed to have been  
261 established by an organization if the initial contribution to the  
262 committee is made by the organization's treasury or an officer or  
263 director of the organization.

264 (b) A political committee established by an organization may elect to  
265 alter the manner in which it is funded if it complies with the  
266 requirements of this subsection. The committee chairperson shall notify  
267 the repository with which the committee's most recent statement of  
268 organization is filed, in writing, of the committee's intent to alter its  
269 manner of funding. [Within] Not later than fifteen days after the date of  
270 receipt of such notification, the treasurer of such political committee  
271 shall return any funds remaining in the account of the committee to the  
272 organization's treasury after payment of each outstanding liability.  
273 [Within] Not later than seven days after the distribution and payments  
274 have been made, the treasurer shall file a statement with the same  
275 repository itemizing each such distribution and payment. Upon such  
276 filing, the treasurer may receive voluntary contributions from any  
277 member of the organization which established such committee subject

278 to the limitations imposed in subsection (b) of section 9-612, as amended  
279 by this act.

280 (c) The chairperson of each political committee established by an  
281 organization on or after July 1, 1985, shall designate the manner in  
282 which the committee shall be funded in the committee's statement of  
283 organization.

284 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of [this section, an organization,  
285 acting alone,] subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section, an  
286 organization may make independent expenditures and contributions to  
287 an independent expenditure political committee.

288 Sec. 9. Section 9-615 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
289 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

290 (a) [No] A political committee established by an organization shall  
291 not make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of, any  
292 candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or for election to the  
293 office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars; (2) Lieutenant  
294 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney  
295 General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) chief executive officer  
296 of a town, city or borough, in excess of one thousand five hundred  
297 dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one thousand five  
298 hundred dollars; (5) state representative, in excess of seven hundred  
299 fifty dollars; or (6) any other office of a municipality not previously  
300 included in this subsection, in excess of three hundred seventy-five  
301 dollars.

302 (b) [No] Any such committee shall not make a contribution or  
303 contributions to, or for the benefit of, an exploratory committee, in  
304 excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars. Any such committee may  
305 make unlimited contributions to a political committee formed solely to  
306 aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question.

307 (c) The limits imposed by subsection (a) of this section shall apply  
308 separately to primaries and elections and no such committee shall make

309 contributions to the candidates designated in this section which in the  
310 aggregate exceed fifty thousand dollars for any single election and  
311 primary preliminary thereto.

312 (d) [No] Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a political  
313 committee established by an organization shall not make contributions  
314 in any one calendar year to, or for the benefit of, (1) the state central  
315 committee of a political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred  
316 dollars; (2) a town committee, in excess of one thousand five hundred  
317 dollars; or (3) any political committee, other than an exploratory  
318 committee or a committee formed solely to aid or promote the success  
319 or defeat of a referendum question, in excess of two thousand dollars.

320 (e) Contributions to a political committee established by an  
321 organization for the purpose of making contributions shall be subject to  
322 the provisions of section 9-618, as amended by this act, in the case of a  
323 committee formed for ongoing political activity or section 9-619, as  
324 amended by this act, in the case of a committee formed for a single  
325 election or primary.

326 (f) An independent expenditure political committee established by an  
327 organization shall not make any contribution unless such contribution  
328 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

329 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-618 of the general statutes is  
330 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
331 *1, 2021*):

332 (a) (1) A political committee organized for ongoing political activities  
333 may make unlimited contributions to, or for the benefit of, any national  
334 committee of a political party [;] or a committee of a candidate for  
335 federal or out-of-state office. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of  
336 subsection (d) of this section, no such political committee shall make a  
337 contribution or contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to  
338 another political committee in any calendar year. No political committee  
339 organized for ongoing political activities shall make a contribution in  
340 excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory

341 committee. If such an ongoing committee is established by an  
342 organization or a business entity, its contributions shall be subject to the  
343 limits imposed by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this  
344 act. A political committee organized for ongoing political activities may  
345 make [contributions] donations to a charitable organization which is a  
346 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
347 Code, as from time to time amended, or make memorial [contributions]  
348 donations.

349 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized for  
350 ongoing political activities shall not make any contribution unless such  
351 contribution is to another independent expenditure political committee.

352 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 9-619 of the general statutes is  
353 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
354 *1, 2021*):

355 (a) (1) No political committee established for a single primary or  
356 election shall make contributions to a national committee, or a  
357 committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office. If such a  
358 political committee is established by an organization or a business  
359 entity, its contributions shall also be subject to the limitations imposed  
360 by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this act. Except as  
361 provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, no political  
362 committee formed for a single election or primary shall, with respect to  
363 such election or primary make a contribution or contributions in excess  
364 of two thousand dollars to another political committee, provided no  
365 such political committee shall make a contribution in excess of three  
366 hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory committee.

367 (2) An independent expenditure political committee established for a  
368 single primary or election shall not make any contribution unless such  
369 contribution is to another independent expenditure political committee.

370 Sec. 12. Section 9-620 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
371 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

372 (a) A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success  
373 or defeat of a referendum question shall not make contributions to, or  
374 for the benefit of, a party committee, a political committee, a national  
375 committee, a committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office  
376 or a candidate committee, except in the distribution of a surplus, as  
377 provided in subsection (e) of section 9-608, as amended by this act.

378 (b) A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success  
379 or defeat of a referendum question shall not receive contributions from  
380 a national committee or from a committee of a candidate for federal or  
381 out-of-state office.

382 (c) [No] A person, other than an individual or a committee, shall not  
383 make a contribution to a political committee formed solely to aid or  
384 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, or to any other  
385 person, to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question,  
386 in excess of ten cents for each individual residing in the state or political  
387 subdivision thereof in which such referendum question is to be voted  
388 upon, in accordance with the last federal decennial census.

389 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive,  
390 of this section, an independent expenditure political committee formed  
391 solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question  
392 shall not make any contribution unless such contribution is made to  
393 another independent expenditure political committee. Unless otherwise  
394 restricted or prohibited by law, an independent expenditure political  
395 committee formed solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a  
396 referendum question may accept contributions from an entity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-611
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-601
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-601(3)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-607(g)(1)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-608(e)(1)(C)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-612(a) and (b)

Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-613
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-614
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-615
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-618(a)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-619(a)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	9-620

***Statement of Purpose:***

To implement federal court rulings regarding independent expenditure political committees and aggregate contribution limits for individuals.

*[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.]*