



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 489

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5452

House of Representatives, April 15, 2024

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2024*):

4 (a) No financial obligation shall be incurred by a committee unless
5 authorized by the treasurer in writing, except that certain expenditures
6 of a candidate's personal funds may be reimbursed as provided in
7 subsection (k) of this section.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (j) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is repealed
9 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

10 (j) A candidate or his committee worker shall be reimbursed by the
11 treasurer for any permissible expenditure which the candidate or
12 committee worker has paid from his own personal funds if (1) the
13 treasurer authorized the expenditure in accordance with subsection (a)
14 of this section, (2) the candidate or committee worker provides the
15 treasurer with a written receipt or other documentary evidence from the

16 vendor proving his payment of the expenditure, and (3) in the case of a
17 reimbursement to the candidate, a detailed accounting of the
18 expenditure is included in the report of the treasurer. Internal records
19 required to be maintained in order for any candidate or committee
20 worker to be reimbursed from committee funds include, but are not
21 limited to, contemporaneous invoices, receipts, bills, statements,
22 itineraries, or other written or documentary evidence showing the
23 campaign or lawful purpose of the expenditure. The treasurer shall
24 preserve all such internal records for the same period of time as required
25 in the case of cancelled checks, except that the treasurer of a candidate
26 committee may, upon request of the candidate, give such internal
27 records to the candidate to keep for such period.

28 Sec. 3. Section 9-622 of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

30 The following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices and shall be
31 punished in accordance with the provisions of section 9-623:

32 (1) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or by another
33 person, gives or offers or promises to any person any money, gift,
34 advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other
35 valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person to
36 sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote or refrain
37 from voting for or against any person or for or against any measure at
38 any election, caucus, convention, primary or referendum;

39 (2) Any person who, directly or indirectly, receives, accepts, requests
40 or solicits from any person, committee, association, organization or
41 corporation, any money, gift, advantage, preferment, aid, emolument or
42 other valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any
43 person to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote
44 or refrain from voting for or against any person or for or against any
45 measure at any such election, caucus, primary or referendum;

46 (3) Any person who, in consideration of any money, gift, advantage,
47 preferment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing paid, received,

48 accepted or promised to the person's advantage or any other person's
49 advantage, votes or refrains from voting for or against any person or for
50 or against any measure at any such election, caucus, primary or
51 referendum;

52 (4) Any person who solicits from any candidate any money, gift,
53 contribution, emolument or other valuable thing for the purpose of
54 using the same for the support, assistance, benefit or expenses of any
55 club, company or organization, or for the purpose of defraying the cost
56 or expenses of any political campaign, primary, referendum or election;

57 (5) Any person who, directly or indirectly, pays, gives, contributes or
58 promises any money or other valuable thing to defray or towards
59 defraying the cost or expenses of any campaign, primary, referendum
60 or election to any person, committee, company, club, organization or
61 association, other than to a treasurer, except that this subdivision shall
62 not apply to any expenses for postage, telegrams, telephoning,
63 stationery, express charges, traveling, meals, lodging or photocopying
64 incurred by any candidate for office or for nomination to office, so far as
65 may be permitted under the provisions of this chapter;

66 (6) Any person who, in order to secure or promote the person's own
67 nomination or election as a candidate, or that of any other person,
68 directly or indirectly, promises to appoint, or promises to secure or
69 assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of any other
70 person to any public position, or to any position of honor, trust or
71 emolument; but any person may publicly announce the person's own
72 choice or purpose in relation to any appointment, nomination or
73 election in which the person may be called to take part, if the person is
74 nominated for or elected to such office;

75 (7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through
76 another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a treasurer
77 in a name other than the person's own, and any treasurer who
78 knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or
79 causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name
80 than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment

81 is made;

82 (8) Any person who knowingly and wilfully violates any provision
83 of this chapter;

84 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess of
85 one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any political
86 party, candidate or referendum question;

87 (10) Any person who solicits, makes or receives a contribution that is
88 otherwise prohibited by any provision of this chapter;

89 (11) Any department head or deputy department head of a state
90 department who solicits a contribution on behalf of, or for the benefit of,
91 any candidate for state, district or municipal office or any political party;

92 (12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf
93 of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal
94 office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an
95 individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or
96 a dependent child of such individual;

97 (13) Any person who makes an expenditure, that is not an
98 independent expenditure, for a candidate without the knowledge of
99 such candidate. No candidate shall be civilly or criminally liable with
100 regard to any such expenditure;

101 (14) Any person who incurs a financial obligation for a committee
102 without authorization from the treasurer in writing. No treasurer shall
103 be civilly or criminally liable with regard to any such financial
104 obligation;

105 [(14)] (15) Any chief of staff of a legislative caucus who solicits a
106 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,
107 district or municipal office from an employee of the legislative caucus;

108 [(15)] (16) Any chief of staff for a state-wide elected official who
109 solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for

110 state, district or municipal office from a member of such official's staff;
111 or

112 [(16)] (17) Any chief of staff for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor
113 who solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any
114 candidate for state, district or municipal office from a member of the
115 staff of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or from any commissioner
116 or deputy commissioner of any state agency.

117 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
118 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
119 *2024*):

120 (d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section do not
121 apply to (1) any editorial, news story, or commentary published in any
122 newspaper, magazine or journal on its own behalf and upon its own
123 responsibility and for which it does not charge or receive any
124 compensation whatsoever, (2) any banner, (3) political paraphernalia
125 including pins, buttons, badges, emblems, hats, bumper stickers or
126 other similar materials, [or] (4) signs with a surface area of not more than
127 thirty-two square feet, or (5) any text or media message, as defined in
128 section 42-284, which (A) does not solicit funds, (B) clearly identifies one
129 or more candidates or political parties, and (C) states the name of each
130 committee that made or incurred an expenditure for such text or media
131 message.

132 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 9-618 of the 2024 supplement to the
133 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
134 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

135 (d) (1) (A) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
136 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
137 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
138 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
139 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
140 the office of: [(A)] (i) State senator, in excess of ten thousand dollars; or
141 [(B)] (ii) state representative, in excess of five thousand dollars. The

142 limits imposed by this subdivision shall apply separately to primaries
143 and elections. No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
144 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
145 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
146 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
147 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
148 any office not included in this subdivision.

149 (B) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision:
150 [a]

151 (i) A legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee
152 may pay or reimburse another legislative caucus committee or
153 legislative leadership committee for its pro rata share of certain
154 expenses in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
155 9-610; and

156 (ii) A legislative caucus committee and a legislative leadership
157 committee, or a legislative leadership committee and another legislative
158 leadership committee, for the same political party in the same house of
159 the General Assembly may transfer funds between themselves,
160 provided the treasurers of both such committees authorize such transfer
161 in writing.

162 (2) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
163 committee shall make a contribution or contributions in any calendar
164 year to, or for the benefit of, the state central committee of a political
165 party, in excess of ten thousand dollars.

166 (3) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
167 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the
168 benefit of, any committee except as provided in this subsection.

169 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-619 of the 2024 supplement to the
170 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
171 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

172 (d) (1) (A) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership

173 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
174 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
175 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
176 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
177 the office of: [(A)] (i) State senator, in excess of ten thousand dollars; or
178 [(B)] (ii) state representative, in excess of five thousand dollars. The
179 limits imposed by this subdivision shall apply separately to primaries
180 and elections. No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
181 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
182 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
183 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
184 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
185 any office not included in this subdivision.

186 (B) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision:
187 [a]

188 (i) A legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee
189 may pay or reimburse another legislative caucus committee or
190 legislative leadership committee for its pro rata share of certain
191 expenses in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
192 9-610; and

193 (ii) A legislative caucus committee and a legislative leadership
194 committee, or a legislative leadership committee and another legislative
195 leadership committee, for the same political party in the same house of
196 the General Assembly may transfer funds between themselves,
197 provided the treasurers of both such committees authorize such transfer
198 in writing.

199 (2) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
200 committee shall make a contribution or contributions in any calendar
201 year to, or for the benefit of, the state central committee of a political
202 party, in excess of ten thousand dollars.

203 (3) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
204 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the

205 benefit of, any committee except as provided in this subsection.

206 Sec. 7. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-704 of the 2024 supplement
207 to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in
208 lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

209 (b) (1) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor
210 held in [2022] 2026, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts
211 in subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,
212 as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
213 Commission not later than [January 15, 2022] January 1, 2026, and
214 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the
215 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
216 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
217 the period beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending
218 on [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the year preceding the
219 year in which said adjustment is to be made.

220 (2) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State Comptroller,
221 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in [2018] 2026, and
222 thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of
223 subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
224 Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15, 2018] January 1,
225 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in
226 the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
227 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
228 the period beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending
229 on [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the year preceding the
230 year in which said adjustment is to be made.

231 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
232 for elections for the office of state senator or state representative held in
233 [2018] 2026, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in
234 subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,
235 as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
236 Commission not later than [January 15, 2018] January 1, 2026, and
237 biennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer

238 price index for all urban consumers as published by the United States
239 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period
240 beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending on
241 [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the year preceding the
242 year in which said adjustment is to be made.

243 (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
244 held in 2024, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (3) or
245 (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall
246 be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later
247 than January 15, 2024, in accordance with any change in the consumer
248 price index for all urban consumers as published by the United States
249 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period
250 beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2021.

251 (c) (1) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
252 Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the
253 State held in [2022] 2026, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
254 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (1) or (2) [, as
255 applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall be
256 adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than
257 [January 15, 2022] January 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in
258 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
259 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,
260 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1,
261 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending on [December thirty-first]
262 November thirtieth in the year preceding the year in which said
263 adjustment is to be made.

264 (2) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
265 held in [2020] 2026, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
266 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4) [, as
267 applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall be
268 adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than
269 [January 15, 2020] January 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, in
270 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban

271 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,
272 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1,
273 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending on [December thirty-first]
274 November thirtieth in the year preceding the year in which said
275 adjustment is to be made.

276 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 9-705 of the 2024 supplement to the
277 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
278 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

279 (d) (1) For elections held in 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the
280 grants in subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
281 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15] January
282 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in
283 the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
284 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
285 the period beginning on [January 1, 2022] December 1, 2021, and ending
286 on [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the year preceding the
287 year in which said adjustment is to be made.

288 (2) For elections held in [2014] 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the
289 grants in subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted by the
290 State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15,
291 2014] January 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with
292 any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
293 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
294 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2010] December 1,
295 2009, and ending on [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the
296 year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

297 Sec. 9. Subsection (h) of section 9-705 of the 2024 supplement to the
298 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
299 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

300 (h) [(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for]
301 For elections held in [2010] 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the grants
302 in subsections (e), (f) and (g) of this section shall be adjusted by the State

303 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15, 2010]
 304 January 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with any
 305 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
 306 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
 307 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2008] December 1,
 308 2007, and ending on [December thirty-first] November thirtieth in the
 309 year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

310 [(2) For elections held in 2018, the amount of the grants in subsections
 311 (e), (f) and (g) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
 312 Enforcement Commission immediately in accordance with any change
 313 in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
 314 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
 315 the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on December 31,
 316 2015.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	9-607(a)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	9-607(j)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	9-622
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	9-621(d)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	9-618(d)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	9-619(d)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2025	9-704(b) and (c)
Sec. 8	January 1, 2025	9-705(d)
Sec. 9	January 1, 2025	9-705(h)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(j)(2), "worker" was changed to "committee worker" for consistency; and in Section 3(14), "any such obligation" was changed to "any such financial obligation" for consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of campaign finance reforms concerning attribution requirements, transfers between campaign committees and expands an existing class D felony for illegal campaign finance activities resulting in the impact outlined below.

The bill expands an existing class D felony for illegal campaign finance activities, results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.¹ On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300² while the average marginal cost for supervision in the

¹Since FY 14, there has been 5 recorded similar offenses and \$0 in collected revenue for fines related to similar offenses. No one is currently incarcerated for similar offenses.

²Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.). This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

community is less than \$800³ each year for adults and \$1,000 each year for juveniles.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations

³Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5452*****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to the state's campaign finance laws. It requires that committee treasurers' authorizations for campaign finance obligations be in writing and makes it an illegal practice for a person to incur an obligation for a committee without the treasurer's written authorization (§§ 1-3).

The bill also extends an exemption from certain political advertising attribution (i.e., disclaimer) requirements to include certain text and media messages. Among other things, such a message must not solicit funds and must state the name of each committee that made or incurred an expenditure for it (§ 4).

Additionally, the bill allows legislative caucus and leadership committees of the same party and legislative chamber to transfer funds to each other (§§ 5 & 6). Lastly, it moves up, from January 15 to January 1 in a state election year, the deadline by which the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) must adjust for inflation Citizens' Election Program (CEP) grant amounts, individual contribution limits, and required contribution totals (§§ 7-9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except that the changes regarding CEP adjustments are effective on January 1, 2025.

§§ 1-3 — WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Existing law requires that campaign finance obligations incurred by a candidate committee, party committee, or political committee be authorized by the committee's treasurer. Additionally, SEEC regulations require that services provided to a committee by its staff or

outside professionals (e.g., attorneys and accountants) be supported by a written agreement if they cost more than \$100 (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 9-607-1).

The bill requires that the treasurer's authorization be in writing for all obligations. It makes a conforming change by specifying that candidates or committee workers seeking reimbursement for a permissible expenditure paid for with personal funds must have received the treasurer's written authorization for the expenditure. As under existing law, the authorization requirement does not apply if the candidate uses his or her personal funds and does not seek reimbursement.

Relatedly, the bill makes it an illegal campaign finance practice to incur an obligation for a committee without receiving a treasurer's written authorization. The bill specifies treasurers are not civilly or criminally liable for unauthorized obligations.

By law, an illegal campaign finance practice is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per offense or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater (CGS § 9-7b(a)(2)(D)). If the act is knowing and willful, it is a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 9-623(a)).

§ 4 — POLITICAL ADVERTISING EXEMPTION

By law, printed, video, and audio political communications must include certain attributions, known as "disclaimers." Among other things, they must (1) identify the person making the expenditure for the communication (i.e., include the phrase "paid for by") and (2) if coordinated with a candidate, indicate that it was approved by the candidate.

The bill exempts from these requirements text or media messages that (1) do not solicit funds, (2) clearly identify one or more candidates or political parties, and (3) state the name of each committee that made or incurred an expenditure for the message. Under the bill and existing law, "text or media messages" generally include texts, images, sounds, or multimedia message service (MMS) messages but exclude emails sent

to email addresses.

Under existing law, the disclaimer exemption also applies to certain editorials, news stories, and commentaries; banners; political paraphernalia (e.g., campaign buttons); and signs with a surface area of 32 square feet or less.

§§ 5 & 6 — LEADERSHIP AND CAUCUS COMMITTEES

Existing law allows legislative leadership and caucus committees to pay or reimburse one another for the pro rata share of expenses for accomplishing the paying or reimbursing committee's lawful purposes. The bill additionally allows legislative leadership and caucus committees of the same party and within the same legislative chamber (i.e., the House or the Senate) to transfer money between themselves if their respective treasurers approve the transfer in writing. Specifically, it allows transfers between a caucus committee and a leadership committee or between two leadership committees.

Under existing law, the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and House and Senate majority leaders may each establish a legislative leadership committee, while the House and Senate minority leaders may each establish two leadership committees. Additionally, the members of the same political party of a chamber in the General Assembly may establish a single legislative caucus committee (CGS § 9-605(e)(2) & (3)).

§§ 7-9 — CEP THRESHOLDS

The CEP is the state's voluntary public financing program available to candidates for legislative and statewide office. Candidates qualify for it by raising an aggregate amount of qualifying contributions (QCs).

Existing law (1) sets base amounts for grants to participating candidates, the maximum amount of a QC, and the aggregate amount of QCs that must be raised and (2) requires that each of these amounts be adjusted for inflation for each election year they apply to. Under current law, SEEC must (1) publish the adjusted amounts by January 15 in the year of the election they apply to and (2) base them on inflationary

changes from January 1 in a specified year through December 31 in the year before the adjustment must be made (e.g., through December 31, 2025, for the 2026 election).

The bill instead requires SEEC to (1) publish the adjusted amounts by January 1 in the year of the election they apply to and (2) base them on inflationary changes from December 1 in a specified year through November 30 in the year before the adjustment must be made (e.g., through November 30, 2025, for the 2026 election). As under existing law, SEEC must base the adjustments on changes to the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the U.S. Department of Labor for the applicable period.

The bill’s changes apply beginning with the 2026 election cycle. It is unclear whether any inflation adjustments would apply to special elections in 2025 (i.e., to fill any vacancies in legislative office).

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 252 (§ 22), reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, eliminates inflationary adjustments for the maximum amount of a QC and the aggregate amount of QCs that must be raised, thus restoring them to their base levels.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/26/2024)