



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 464

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5497

House of Representatives, April 11, 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 bill ought to pass.

AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES IN A CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATUTE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2024*):

4 (f) If an exploratory committee has been established by a candidate
5 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604, the treasurer of the
6 committee shall file a notice of intent to dissolve it with the appropriate
7 authority not later than fifteen days after the candidate's declaration of
8 intent to seek nomination or election to a particular public office, except
9 that in the case of an exploratory committee established by a candidate
10 for purposes that include aiding or promoting the candidate's candidacy
11 for nomination or election to the General Assembly or a state office, the
12 treasurer of the committee shall file such notice of intent to dissolve the
13 committee not later than fifteen days after the earlier of: (1) The

14 candidate's declaration of intent to seek nomination or election to a
15 particular public office, (2) the candidate's endorsement at a convention,
16 caucus or town committee meeting, or (3) the candidate's filing of a
17 candidacy for nomination under section 9-400 or 9-405. The treasurer
18 shall also file a statement identifying all contributions received or
19 expenditures made by the exploratory committee since the previous
20 statement and the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. In the
21 event of a surplus, the treasurer shall, not later than the filing of the
22 statement, distribute the surplus to the candidate committee established
23 pursuant to said section, except that (A) in the case of a surplus of an
24 exploratory committee established by a candidate who intends to be a
25 participating candidate, as defined in section 9-703, in the Citizens'
26 Election Program, the treasurer may distribute to the candidate
27 committee only that portion of such surplus that is attributable to
28 contributions that meet the criteria for qualifying contributions for the
29 candidate committee under section 9-704 and shall distribute the
30 remainder of such surplus to the Citizens' Election Fund established in
31 section 9-701, and (B) in the case of a surplus of an exploratory
32 committee established for nomination or election to an office other than
33 the General Assembly or a state office (i) the treasurer may only
34 distribute to the candidate committee for nomination or election to the
35 General Assembly or state office of such candidate that portion of such
36 surplus which is in excess of the total contributions which the
37 exploratory committee received from lobbyists or political committees
38 established by lobbyists, during any period in which the prohibitions in
39 subsection (e) of section 9-610 apply, and (ii) any remaining amount
40 shall be returned to all such lobbyists and political committees
41 established by or on behalf of lobbyists, on a prorated basis of
42 contribution, or distributed to any charitable organization which is a
43 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
44 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
45 of the United States, as from time to time amended. If the candidate
46 decides not to seek nomination or election to any office, the treasurer
47 shall, within fifteen days after such decision, comply with the provisions
48 of this subsection and distribute any surplus in the manner provided by

49 this section for political committees other than those formed for ongoing
50 political activities, except that if the surplus is from an exploratory
51 committee established by the State Treasurer, any portion of the surplus
52 that is received from a principal of an investment services firm or a
53 political committee established by such firm shall be returned to such
54 principal or committee on a prorated basis of contribution. In the event
55 of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a statement thirty days after the
56 decision or declaration with the proper authority and, thereafter, on the
57 seventh day of each month following if on the last day of the previous
58 month there was an increase or decrease in such deficit in excess of five
59 hundred dollars from that reported on the last statement filed. The
60 treasurer shall file supplemental statements until the deficit is
61 eliminated. If the exploratory committee does not have a surplus or
62 deficit, the statement filed after the candidate's declaration or decision
63 shall be the last required statement. If a candidate certifies on the
64 statement of organization for the exploratory committee pursuant to
65 subsection (c) of section 9-604 that the candidate will not be a candidate
66 for the office of state representative and subsequently establishes a
67 candidate committee for the office of state representative, the treasurer
68 of the candidate committee shall pay to the State Treasurer, for deposit
69 in the General Fund, an amount equal to the portion of any contribution
70 received by said exploratory committee that exceeded two hundred fifty
71 dollars. As used in this subsection, "principal of an investment services
72 firm" has the same meaning [set forth] as provided in subsection (e) of
73 section 9-612 and "state office" has the same meaning [set forth] as
74 provided in subsection (e) of section 9-610.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	9-608(f)

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes technical changes to campaign finance statutes and results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5497

AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES IN A CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATUTE.

SUMMARY

This bill makes technical changes to a campaign finance statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2024)