



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 482

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 252

Senate, April 15, 2024

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA, INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND OTHER CAMPAIGN FINANCE CHANGES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-601 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
2 is amended by adding subdivisions (33) to (35), inclusive, as follows
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (NEW) (33) "Independent expenditure political committee" means a
5 political committee that makes only (A) independent expenditures (i) to
6 promote the success or defeat of any candidate seeking (I) the
7 nomination for election, or (II) election, or (ii) for the purpose of aiding
8 or promoting the success or defeat of any (I) referendum question, or
9 (II) political party, and (B) contributions to other independent
10 expenditure political committees.

11 (NEW) (34) "Consultant" means any person (A) that provides (i)
12 campaign strategy, (ii) design or management of campaign
13 communications, literature or advertising, or (iii) fundraising or
14 management services, or (B) with duties that include identifying, hiring

15 or paying subvendors for goods or services on behalf of a committee or
16 person required to file a report pursuant to section 9-601d, as amended
17 by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act, as applicable.

18 (NEW) (35) (A) "Subvendor" means any person that provides goods
19 or services to a consultant or that contracts with a consultant or other
20 subvendor to provide goods or services to a committee or person
21 required to file a report pursuant to section 9-601d, as amended by this
22 act, or 9-608, as amended by this act, as applicable.

23 (B) "Subvendor" does not include a person who is an employee of a
24 consultant if such person has been an employee of such consultant for
25 three or more consecutive months prior to any month in which a
26 committee or person is required to file a report accounting for any
27 expenditure to such consultant or any subvendor for such consultant.

28 Sec. 2. Subdivision (3) of section 9-601 of the 2024 supplement to the
29 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
30 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

31 (3) "Political committee" means (A) a committee organized by a
32 business entity or organization, (B) persons other than individuals, or
33 two or more individuals organized or acting jointly conducting their
34 activities in or outside the state, (C) an exploratory committee, (D) a
35 committee established by or on behalf of a slate of candidates in a
36 primary for the office of justice of the peace, but does not mean a
37 candidate committee or a party committee, (E) a legislative caucus
38 committee, [or] (F) a legislative leadership committee, or (G) an
39 independent expenditure political committee.

40 Sec. 3. Section 9-601c of the general statutes is amended by adding
41 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

42 (NEW) (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d),
43 inclusive, of this section, an independent expenditure political
44 committee may coordinate with one or more other independent
45 expenditure political committees for the purpose of making one or more

46 independent expenditures.

47 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of section 9-601d of the general
48 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
49 (*Effective from passage*):

50 (a) Any person, as defined in section 9-601, as amended by this act,
51 may, unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, including, but not
52 limited to, any provision of this chapter or chapter 157, make unlimited
53 independent expenditures, as defined in section 9-601c, as amended by
54 this act, and accept unlimited covered transfers, as defined in [said]
55 section 9-601, as amended by this act. Except as provided [pursuant to]
56 in this section, any such person who makes or obligates to make an
57 independent expenditure or expenditures in excess of [one] five
58 thousand dollars, in the aggregate, shall file statements according to the
59 same schedule and in the same manner as is required of a treasurer of a
60 [candidate] political committee pursuant to section 9-608, as amended
61 by this act. Any such person, other than a committee, shall file with the
62 proper authority, as provided in section 9-603 (1) a long-form report and
63 a short-form report pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section for
64 such independent expenditure or expenditures, or (2) a short-form
65 report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for each subsequent
66 independent expenditure made or obligated to be made.

67 (b) Any person who makes or obligates to make an independent
68 expenditure or expenditures in an election or primary for the office of
69 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer,
70 State Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state
71 representative, [which] or to promote the success or defeat of a
72 referendum question proposing a constitutional convention,
73 constitutional amendment or revision of the Constitution, that exceed
74 [one] five thousand dollars, in the aggregate, during [a primary
75 campaign or a general election campaign, as defined in section 9-700,
76 shall file, electronically, a long-form and a short-form report of such
77 independent expenditure or expenditures with the State Elections
78 Enforcement Commission pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this

79 section. The person that makes or obligates to make such independent
80 expenditure or expenditures shall file such reports] the period
81 beginning on June first in the year of a regular election, or on the day
82 the Governor issues writs of election pursuant to section 9-215 in the
83 case of a special election for the office of state senator or state
84 representative, and ending on the day following the primary or election
85 for which such person made or obligated to make such independent
86 expenditure or expenditures, shall electronically file, in the case of a
87 committee, a report pursuant to section 9-608, as amended by this act,
88 or, in the case of any person other than a committee, a long-form report
89 and a short-form report pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this
90 section not later than twenty-four hours after (1) making any such
91 payment, or (2) obligating to make any such payment, with respect to
92 the primary, [or] election [. If any such person makes or incurs a
93 subsequent independent expenditure, such person shall report such
94 expenditure pursuant to subsection (d) of this section] or referendum.
95 In the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state
96 representative, if any person makes or obligates to make an independent
97 expenditure or expenditures for such special election that exceed five
98 thousand dollars, in the aggregate, prior to the day the Governor issues
99 writs of election pursuant to section 9-215, such person shall file a report
100 not later than twenty-four hours after such writs of election are issued.
101 Such reports shall be filed under penalty of false statement.

102 (c) The independent expenditure long-form report shall identify: (1)
103 The name of the person making or obligating to make such independent
104 expenditure or expenditures and, in the case of a person other than an
105 individual, provide the name of a human being who had direct,
106 extensive and substantive decision-making authority over such
107 independent expenditure or expenditures; (2) the tax exempt status of
108 such person and, if [applicable] such person files a report with the
109 Federal Election Commission, the Internal Revenue Service or any
110 similar out-of-state agency, provide identifying information under
111 which any such filing is made; (3) the mailing address, and street
112 address if different, of such person; (4) the principal business address of
113 the person, if different from either the mailing address or the street

114 address; (5) the mailing address, and street address if different,
115 telephone number and electronic mail address of the agent for service
116 of process in this state of such person and of the human being described
117 in subdivision (1) of this subsection; (6) the date of the primary, [or]
118 election or referendum for which [the] such independent expenditure or
119 expenditures were made or obligated to be made; (7) the name of any
120 candidate who, or the text of any referendum question that, was the
121 subject of [any] such independent expenditure or expenditures and
122 whether [the] such independent expenditure or expenditures were in
123 support of or in opposition to such candidate or referendum question;
124 and (8) the name, telephone number and electronic mail address for the
125 individual filing such report. Such individual filing such report shall,
126 under penalty of false statement, affirm that the expenditure reported is
127 an independent expenditure. [under penalty of false statement.]

128 (d) As part of any filing made pursuant to subsection (c) of this
129 section and for each subsequent independent expenditure made or
130 obligated to be made by a person with respect to the primary, [or]
131 election or referendum for which a long-form report pursuant to
132 subsection (c) of this section has been filed on behalf of such person, an
133 individual shall file [, electronically,] a short-form report for each such
134 independent expenditure. [, not later than twenty-four hours after such
135 person makes a payment for an independent expenditure or obligates
136 to make such an independent expenditure.] Such short-form report shall
137 identify: (1) The name of the person making or obligating to make such
138 independent expenditure; (2) the amount of the independent
139 expenditure; (3) whether the independent expenditure was in support
140 of or in opposition to a candidate or referendum question and the name
141 of such candidate or text of such referendum question; (4) a brief
142 description of the independent expenditure made, including the type of
143 communication, based on categories determined by the State Elections
144 Enforcement Commission, and the allocation of such independent
145 expenditure in support of or in opposition to each such candidate or
146 referendum question, if such independent expenditure was made in
147 support of or in opposition to more than one candidate or referendum
148 question; and (5) the name, telephone number and electronic mail

149 address for the individual filing such report. Such individual filing such
150 report shall, under penalty of false statement, affirm that the
151 expenditure reported is an independent expenditure. [under penalty of
152 false statement.]

153 (e) No person reporting an independent expenditure pursuant to the
154 provisions of subsection (c) or (d) of this section shall be required to file
155 a statement pursuant to section 9-608, as amended by this act, for such
156 independent expenditure.

157 (f) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, as part
158 of any statement filed pursuant to this section, if (A) a person who
159 makes or obligates to make an independent expenditure [(A)] has
160 received a covered transfer during the twelve-month period prior to (i)
161 a primary or election, as applicable to the reported expenditure, for an
162 office that a candidate described in subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of
163 this section is seeking, or (ii) a referendum on a question proposing a
164 constitutional convention, constitutional amendment or revision of the
165 Constitution, and (B) such independent expenditure is made or
166 obligated to be made on or after the date that is one hundred eighty days
167 prior to such primary, [or] election or referendum, such person shall
168 disclose the source and the amount of any such covered transfer such
169 person received that is in an amount that is five thousand dollars or
170 more, in the aggregate, during the twelve-month period prior to such
171 primary, [or] election or referendum, as applicable to the reported
172 expenditure.

173 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply
174 to any person who discloses the source and amount of a covered transfer
175 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection as part of any report to
176 the Federal Election Commission, [or] the Internal Revenue Service or
177 any similar out-of-state agency, provided such person includes a copy
178 of, or information sufficient to find, any such report as part of the report
179 of each applicable independent expenditure filed pursuant to this
180 section. If a source and amount of a covered transfer is not included as
181 part of any such report, the maker of the independent expenditure shall

182 disclose the source and amount of such covered transfer pursuant to
183 subdivision (1) of this subsection, if applicable.

184 (g) (1) A person may, unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by
185 law, including, but not limited to, any provision of this chapter or
186 chapter 157, establish a dedicated independent expenditure account [,
187 for the purpose of engaging in] that may be used to make independent
188 expenditures, [that] provided such account is segregated from all other
189 accounts controlled by such person. Such dedicated independent
190 expenditure account may receive covered transfers directly from
191 persons other than the person establishing the dedicated account and
192 may not receive transfers from another account controlled by the person
193 establishing the dedicated account, except as provided in subdivision
194 (2) of this subsection. If an independent expenditure is made from such
195 segregated account, any report required pursuant to this section or
196 disclaimer required pursuant to section 9-621, as amended by this act,
197 [may include only] shall include those persons who made covered
198 transfers directly to the dedicated independent expenditure account.

199 (2) If a person who has made a covered transfer to another account
200 controlled by the person establishing a dedicated independent
201 expenditure account requests that such covered transfer be used for the
202 purposes of making an independent expenditure from the dedicated
203 independent expenditure account, the amount of such covered transfer
204 may be transferred to the dedicated independent expenditure account
205 and shall be treated as a covered transfer directly to the dedicated
206 independent expenditure account.

207 (h) Any person may file a complaint with the commission upon the
208 belief that (1) any such independent expenditure report or statement is
209 false, or (2) any person who is required to file an independent
210 expenditure report under this subsection has failed to do so. The
211 commission shall make a prompt determination on such a complaint.

212 (i) (1) [If] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-623, if (A) a
213 person fails to file a report in accordance with the provisions of this
214 section or section 9-608, as amended by this act, for an independent

215 expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be made more than
216 ninety days before the day of a primary, [or election, the] election or
217 referendum, such person shall be subject to a civil penalty, imposed by
218 the State Elections Enforcement Commission, of not more than ten
219 thousand dollars. [If] and (B) a person fails to file a report [required] in
220 accordance with the provisions of this section for an independent
221 expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be made ninety days
222 or less before the day of a primary, [or] election or referendum, such
223 person shall be subject to a civil penalty, imposed by the State Elections
224 Enforcement Commission, of not more than twenty thousand dollars or
225 twice the amount of such independent expenditure or expenditures,
226 whichever is greater.

227 (2) [If] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-623, if the State
228 Elections Enforcement Commission finds that any such failure is
229 knowing and wilful, the person responsible for [the] such failure shall
230 [also be fined] be subject to an additional civil penalty, imposed by the
231 commission, of not more than fifty thousand dollars or ten times the
232 amount of such independent expenditure or expenditures, whichever is
233 greater, and the commission may refer the matter to the office of the
234 Chief State's Attorney.

235 (3) If the State Elections Enforcement Commission finds that a person
236 is subject to a civil penalty under this subsection, (A) in the case of a
237 committee, (i) the chairperson, and (ii) any officer, or (B) in the case of a
238 person other than a committee, (i) the chief executive or chief financial
239 officer, or equivalent, (ii) any other officer, and (iii) any manager who
240 had direct, extensive and substantive decision-making authority over
241 the independent expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be
242 made by such person, shall be liable for paying any amount of such civil
243 penalty imposed that is not paid by such person within one year after
244 the latter of (I) the date on which the commission imposed such civil
245 penalty, or (II) the date of the final judgment of a court of competent
246 jurisdiction following any appeal taken from the commission's action in
247 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

248 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is
249 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
250 *passage*):

251 (b) The registration statement shall include: (1) The name and address
252 of the committee; (2) a statement of the purpose of the committee; (3) the
253 name and address of its treasurer, and deputy treasurer if applicable; (4)
254 the name, address and position of its [chairman] chairperson, and other
255 principal officers if applicable; (5) the name and address of the
256 depository institution for its funds; (6) the name of each person, other
257 than an individual, that is a member of the committee; (7) the name and
258 party affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is supporting
259 and the office or position sought by each candidate; (8) if the committee
260 is supporting the entire ticket of any party, a statement to that effect and
261 the name of the party; (9) if the committee is supporting or opposing
262 any referendum question, a brief statement identifying the substance of
263 the question; (10) if the committee is established or controlled by a
264 [business entity or organization] person or an individual acting as the
265 agent of a person, the name of [the entity or organization] such person
266 and, if the committee is established or controlled by a person other than
267 a human being, the name of its chief executive officer or equivalent; (11)
268 if the committee is established by an organization, a statement of
269 whether it will receive its funds from the organization's treasury or from
270 voluntary contributions; (12) if the committee files reports with the
271 Federal Elections Commission, the Internal Revenue Service or any
272 similar out-of-state agency, a statement to that effect including the name
273 of the agency and identifying information under which any such filings
274 are made; (13) a statement indicating whether the committee is
275 established for a single primary, election or referendum or for ongoing
276 political activities; (14) if the committee is established or controlled by a
277 lobbyist, a statement to that effect and the name of the lobbyist; (15) the
278 name and address of the person making the initial contribution or
279 disbursement, if any, to the committee; and (16) any information that
280 the State Elections Enforcement Commission requires to facilitate
281 compliance with the provisions of this chapter or chapter 157. If no such
282 initial contribution or disbursement, as described in subdivision (15) of

283 this subsection, has been made at the time of the filing of such statement,
284 the treasurer of the committee shall, not later than forty-eight hours after
285 receipt of such contribution or disbursement, file a report with the State
286 Elections Enforcement Commission. The report shall be in the same
287 form as statements filed under section 9-608, as amended by this act.

288 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general
289 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
290 (*Effective from passage*):

291 (g) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "the lawful purposes of the
292 committee" means: (i) For a candidate committee or exploratory
293 committee, the promoting of the nomination or election of the candidate
294 who established the committee, except that after a political party
295 nominates candidates for election to the offices of Governor and
296 Lieutenant Governor, whose names shall be so placed on the ballot in
297 the election that an elector will cast a single vote for both candidates, as
298 prescribed in section 9-181, a candidate committee established by either
299 such candidate may also promote the election of the other such
300 candidate; (ii) for a political committee, other than an independent
301 expenditure political committee described in subparagraph (A)(iv) of
302 this subdivision, the promoting of a political party, including party
303 building activities, the success or defeat of candidates for nomination
304 and election to public office or position subject to the requirements of
305 this chapter [,] or the success or defeat of referendum questions,
306 provided [a political committee formed for a single referendum
307 question shall not promote the success or defeat of any candidate, and
308 provided further] a legislative leadership committee or a legislative
309 caucus committee may expend funds to defray costs for conducting
310 legislative or constituency-related business which are not reimbursed or
311 paid by the state; [and] (iii) for a party committee, the promoting of the
312 party, including party building activities, the candidates of the party or
313 the success or defeat of referendum questions, and continuing operating
314 costs of the party; and (iv) for an independent expenditure political
315 committee, the promoting of a political party, the success or defeat of
316 candidates for nomination or election to public office or position subject

317 to the requirements of this chapter or the success or defeat of
318 referendum questions, and (B) "immediate family" means a spouse or
319 dependent child of a candidate who resides in the candidate's
320 household.

321 Sec. 7. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section
322 9-608 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
323 in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

324 (C) [(i) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
325 success or defeat of any referendum question, which does not receive
326 contributions from a business entity or an organization, shall distribute
327 its surplus to a party committee, to a political committee organized for
328 ongoing political activities, to a national committee of a political party,
329 to all contributors to the committee on a prorated basis of contribution,
330 to state or municipal governments or agencies or to any organization
331 which is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the
332 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
333 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time
334 amended. (ii) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote
335 the success or defeat of any referendum question, which receives
336 contributions from a business entity or an organization] An
337 independent expenditure political committee, other than an
338 independent expenditure political committee formed for ongoing
339 political activities, shall distribute its surplus to all contributors to the
340 committee on a prorated basis of contribution, to state or municipal
341 governments or agencies, or to any organization which is tax-exempt
342 under [said provisions] Sections 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) of the Internal
343 Revenue Code, as amended from time to time. Notwithstanding the
344 provisions of this subsection, a committee formed for a single
345 referendum shall not be required to expend its surplus [not later than]
346 within ninety days after the referendum and may continue in existence
347 if a substantially similar referendum question on the same issue will be
348 submitted to the electorate within six months after the first referendum.
349 If two or more substantially similar referenda on the same issue are
350 submitted to the electorate, each no more than six months apart, the

351 committee shall expend such surplus within ninety days following the
352 date of the last such referendum;

353 Sec. 8. Section 9-611 of the general statutes is repealed and the
354 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

355 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, for
356 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate
357 or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
358 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
359 the office of (1) Governor, in excess of three thousand five hundred
360 dollars; (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer,
361 Comptroller or Attorney General, in excess of two thousand dollars; (3)
362 chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of one
363 thousand dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one
364 thousand dollars; or (5) state representative or any other office of a
365 municipality not previously included in this subsection, in excess of two
366 hundred fifty dollars. The limits imposed by this subsection shall be
367 applied separately to primaries and elections.

368 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or
369 for the benefit of, an exploratory committee, in excess of three hundred
370 seventy-five dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory
371 committee certifies on the statement of organization for the exploratory
372 committee pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604 that the candidate
373 will not be a candidate for the office of state representative. No
374 individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the
375 benefit of, any exploratory committee, in excess of two hundred fifty
376 dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory committee does not
377 so certify.

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

382 [(c) No individual shall make contributions to such candidates or

383 committees which in the aggregate exceed thirty thousand dollars for
384 any single election and primary preliminary to such election.]

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

388 [(e)] (d) No individual who is less than eighteen years of age shall
389 make a contribution or contributions, in excess of thirty dollars to, for
390 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of: (1) A
391 candidate or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's
392 campaign for nomination at a primary to any office; (2) a candidate or a
393 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
394 election to any office; (3) an exploratory committee; (4) any other
395 political committee in any calendar year; or (5) a party committee in any
396 calendar year. Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (2) of
397 section 9-7b, any individual who is less than eighteen years of age who
398 violates any provision of this subsection shall not be subject to the
399 provisions of subdivision (2) of section 9-7b.

400 Sec. 9. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-612 of the 2024 supplement
401 to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in
402 lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

403 (a) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions in any
404 one calendar year in excess of fifteen thousand dollars to the state central
405 committee of any party, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant
406 to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a town
407 committee of any political party, or for the benefit of such committee
408 pursuant to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a
409 legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee; [,] or
410 one thousand dollars to any other political committee [other than (1)]
411 except (A) a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
412 success or defeat of a referendum question, [(2)] (B) an exploratory
413 committee, [(3)] (C) a political committee established by an
414 organization, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant to its
415 authorization or request, or [(4)] (D) a political committee formed by a

416 slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the peace of
417 the same town.

418 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
419 subsection and unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, an
420 individual may make contributions to an independent expenditure
421 political committee, including a political committee formed solely to aid
422 or promote the success or defeat of any referendum question.

423 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution to a political
424 committee established by an organization which receives its funds from
425 the organization's treasury. With respect to a political committee
426 established by an organization which has complied with the provisions
427 of subsection (b) or (c) of section 9-614, as amended by this act, and has
428 elected to receive contributions, no individual other than a member of
429 the organization may make contributions to the committee, in which
430 case the individual may contribute not more than seven hundred fifty
431 dollars in any one calendar year to such committee or for the benefit of
432 such committee pursuant to its authorization or request.

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

437 Sec. 10. Section 9-613 of the general statutes is repealed and the
438 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

439 (a) [No] Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a business
440 entity shall not make any contributions or expenditures (1) to, or for the
441 benefit of, any candidate's campaign for election to any public office or
442 position subject to this chapter or for nomination at a primary for any
443 such office or position, or (2) to promote the defeat of any candidate for
444 any such office or position. [No] A business entity shall not make any
445 other contributions or expenditures to promote the success or defeat of
446 any political party. [, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
447 No] A business entity shall not establish more than one political

448 committee. A political committee shall be deemed to have been
449 established by a business entity if the initial disbursement or
450 contribution to the committee is made under subsection (b) of this
451 section or by an officer, director, owner, limited or general partner or
452 holder of stock constituting five per cent or more of the total outstanding
453 stock of any class of the business entity.

454 (b) A business entity may make reasonable and necessary transfers or
455 disbursements to or for the benefit of a political committee established
456 by such business entity, for the administration of, or solicitation of
457 contributions to, such political committee. Nonmonetary contributions
458 by a business entity which are incidental in nature and are directly
459 attributable to the administration of such political committee shall be
460 exempt from the reporting requirements of this chapter.

461 [(c) The provisions of this section shall not preclude a business entity
462 from making contributions or expenditures to promote the success or
463 defeat of a referendum question.]

464 [(d) A] (c) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a
465 political committee organized by a business entity shall not make a
466 contribution or contributions to or for the benefit of any candidate's
467 campaign for nomination at a primary or any candidate's campaign for
468 election to the office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars;
469 (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller
470 or Attorney General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) state
471 senator, probate judge or chief executive officer of a town, city or
472 borough, in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars; (4) state
473 representative, in excess of seven hundred fifty dollars; or (5) any other
474 office of a municipality not included in subdivision (3) of this
475 subsection, in excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars. The limits
476 imposed by this subsection shall apply separately to primaries and
477 elections and contributions by any such committee to candidates
478 designated in this subsection shall not exceed one hundred thousand
479 dollars in the aggregate for any single election and primary preliminary
480 thereto. Contributions to such committees shall also be subject to the

481 provisions of section 9-618, as amended by this act, in the case of
482 committees formed for ongoing political activity or section 9-619, as
483 amended by this act, in the case of committees formed for a single
484 election or primary.

485 [(e) No] (d) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a
486 political committee organized by a business entity shall not make a
487 contribution or contributions to (1) a state central committee of a
488 political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in any
489 calendar year, (2) a town committee of any political party, in excess of
490 one thousand five hundred dollars in any calendar year, (3) an
491 exploratory committee in excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars,
492 or (4) any other kind of political committee, in excess of two thousand
493 dollars in any calendar year.

494 [(f)] (e) As used in this subsection, "investment services" means
495 investment legal services, investment banking services, investment
496 advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or
497 brokerage firm services. [No] A political committee established by a
498 firm which provides investment services and to which the State
499 Treasurer pays compensation, expenses or fees or issues a contract shall
500 not make a contribution to, or solicit contributions on behalf of, an
501 exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a
502 candidate for nomination or election to the office of State Treasurer
503 during the term of office of the State Treasurer who does business with
504 such firm.

505 [(g)] (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a
506 [corporation, cooperative association, limited partnership, professional
507 association, limited liability company or limited liability partnership,
508 whether formed in this state or any other, acting alone,] business entity
509 may make independent expenditures and contributions to an
510 independent expenditure political committee.

511 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized by a
512 business entity shall not make any contribution unless such contribution
513 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

514 Sec. 11. Section 9-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the
515 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

516 (a) An organization may make contributions or expenditures, other
517 than [those made to promote] for the purpose of promoting the success
518 or defeat of a referendum question, only by first forming its own
519 political committee. [The] Unless such political committee is an
520 independent expenditure political committee, the political committee
521 shall then be authorized to (1) receive funds (A) exclusively from the
522 organization's treasury or from voluntary contributions made by its
523 members, but not both, (B) from another political committee, or [,] (C)
524 from a candidate committee distributing a surplus, and [(1) to] (2) make
525 (A) contributions or expenditures to, or for the benefit of, a candidate's
526 campaign or a political party, or [(2) to make] (B) contributions to
527 another political committee. [No] An organization shall not form more
528 than one political committee. A political committee shall be deemed to
529 have been established by an organization if the initial contribution to the
530 committee is made by the organization's treasury or an officer or
531 director of the organization.

532 (b) A political committee established by an organization may elect to
533 alter the manner in which it is funded if it complies with the
534 requirements of this subsection. The committee chairperson shall notify
535 the repository with which the committee's most recent statement of
536 organization is filed, in writing, of the committee's intent to alter its
537 manner of funding. [Within] Not later than fifteen days after the date of
538 receipt of such notification, the treasurer of such political committee
539 shall return any funds remaining in the account of the committee to the
540 organization's treasury after payment of each outstanding liability.
541 [Within] Not later than seven days after the distribution and payments
542 have been made, the treasurer shall file a statement with the same
543 repository itemizing each such distribution and payment. Upon such
544 filing, the treasurer may receive voluntary contributions from any
545 member of the organization which established such committee subject
546 to the limitations imposed in subsection (b) of section 9-612, as amended
547 by this act.

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

552 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an organization [,
553 acting alone,] may make independent expenditures and contributions
554 to an independent expenditure political committee.

555 Sec. 12. Section 9-615 of the general statutes is repealed and the
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

557 (a) [No] A political committee established by an organization shall
558 not make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of, any
559 candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or for election to the
560 office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars; (2) Lieutenant
561 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney
562 General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) chief executive officer
563 of a town, city or borough, in excess of one thousand five hundred
564 dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one thousand five
565 hundred dollars; (5) state representative, in excess of seven hundred
566 fifty dollars; or (6) any other office of a municipality not previously
567 included in this subsection, in excess of three hundred seventy-five
568 dollars.

569 (b) [No such] A political committee established by an organization
570 shall not make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of,
571 an exploratory committee, in excess of three hundred seventy-five
572 dollars. [Any such] A political committee established by an organization
573 may make unlimited contributions to a political committee formed
574 solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question.

575 (c) The limits imposed by subsection (a) of this section shall apply
576 separately to primaries and elections and no such committee shall make
577 contributions to the candidates designated in this section which in the
578 aggregate exceed fifty thousand dollars for any single election and
579 primary preliminary thereto.

580 (d) [No] Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a political
581 committee established by an organization shall not make contributions
582 in any one calendar year to, or for the benefit of, (1) the state central
583 committee of a political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred
584 dollars; (2) a town committee, in excess of one thousand five hundred
585 dollars; or (3) any political committee, other than an exploratory
586 committee or a committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
587 or defeat of a referendum question, in excess of two thousand dollars.

588 (e) Contributions to a political committee established by an
589 organization shall be subject to the provisions of section 9-618, as
590 amended by this act, in the case of a committee formed for ongoing
591 political activity or section 9-619, as amended by this act, in the case of
592 a committee formed for a single election or primary.

593 (f) An independent expenditure political committee established by an
594 organization shall not make any contribution unless such contribution
595 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

596 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 9-618 of the 2024 supplement to the
597 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
598 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

599 (a) (1) A political committee organized for ongoing political activities
600 may make unlimited contributions to, or for the benefit of, any national
601 committee of a political party [;] or [a] any committee of a candidate for
602 federal or out-of-state office. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of
603 subsection (d) of this section, no such political committee shall make a
604 contribution or contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to
605 another political committee in any calendar year. No political committee
606 organized for ongoing political activities shall make a contribution in
607 excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory
608 committee. If such an ongoing committee is established by an
609 organization or a business entity, its contributions shall be subject to the
610 limits imposed by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this
611 act. A political committee organized for ongoing political activities may
612 make [contributions] donations to a charitable organization which is a

613 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
614 Code, as from time to time amended, or make memorial [contributions]
615 donations.

616 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized for
617 ongoing political activities shall not make any contribution unless such
618 contribution is to another independent expenditure political committee.

619 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 9-619 of the 2024 supplement to the
620 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
621 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

622 (a) [No] (1) A political committee established for a single primary or
623 election shall not make contributions to a national committee, or a
624 committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office. If such a
625 political committee is established by an organization or a business
626 entity, its contributions shall also be subject to the limitations imposed
627 by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this act. Except as
628 provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, [no] a
629 political committee [formed] established for a single election or primary
630 shall not, with respect to such election or primary, make a contribution
631 or contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to another political
632 committee, provided [no such] a political committee established for a
633 single election or primary shall not make a contribution in excess of
634 three hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory committee.

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

638 Sec. 15. Section 9-620 of the general statutes is repealed and the
639 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

640 (a) [A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
641 or defeat of a referendum question shall not make contributions to, or
642 for the benefit of, a party committee, a political committee, a national
643 committee, a committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office

644 or a candidate committee, except in the distribution of a surplus, as
645 provided in subsection (e) of section 9-608.] Subject to the provisions of
646 this chapter, any person may establish an independent expenditure
647 political committee that may only make expenditures without the
648 consent, coordination or consultation of a candidate or agent of the
649 candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political
650 committee. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, any such
651 independent expenditure political committee may accept contributions
652 from any person.

653 (b) [A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
654 or defeat of a referendum question shall not receive contributions from
655 a national committee or from a committee of a candidate for federal or
656 out-of-state office] Any person may establish an independent
657 expenditure political committee solely to aid or promote the success or
658 defeat of a single referendum question, or of multiple referendum
659 questions submitted to a vote on the same date. Such committee may
660 only make independent expenditures to aid or promote the success or
661 defeat of a single referendum question, or of multiple referendum
662 questions submitted to a vote on the same date. Subject to the provisions
663 of this chapter, such committee may accept contributions from any
664 person.

665 (c) [No person, other than an individual or a committee, shall make a
666 contribution to a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
667 success or defeat of a referendum question, or to any other person, to
668 aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, in excess
669 of ten cents for each individual residing in the state or political
670 subdivision thereof in which such referendum question is to be voted
671 upon, in accordance with the last federal decennial census] Except as
672 provided in this section, an independent expenditure political
673 committee shall not make contributions to, or for the benefit of, a party
674 committee, a political committee, a national committee, a committee of
675 a candidate for federal or out-of-state office or a candidate committee.

676 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an independent

677 expenditure political committee may make contributions to another
678 independent expenditure political committee, make donations to any
679 organization which is a tax-exempt organization under Sections
680 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended from
681 time to time, and refund contributions to contributors.

682 Sec. 16. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-621 of the general statutes
683 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
684 *from passage*):

685 (c) (1) No business entity, organization, association, committee, or
686 group of two or more individuals who have joined solely to promote the
687 success or defeat of a referendum question shall make or incur any
688 expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication
689 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless
690 such communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words
691 "paid for by" and the following: [(1)] (A) In the case of a business entity,
692 organization or association, the name of the business entity,
693 organization or association and the name of its chief executive officer or
694 equivalent, and in the case such communication is made during the
695 ninety-day period immediately prior to the referendum, such
696 communication shall also bear on its face the names of the five persons
697 who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to such business
698 entity, organization or association during the twelve-month period
699 immediately prior to such referendum. The communication shall also
700 state that additional information about the business entity, organization
701 or association making such communication may be found on the State
702 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site; [(2)] (B) in the
703 case of a political committee, the name of the committee and the name
704 of its treasurer; [(3)] (C) in the case of a party committee, the name of the
705 committee; or [(4)] (D) in the case of such a group of two or more
706 individuals, the name of the group and the name and address of its
707 agent.

708 (2) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for:

709 (A) A video broadcast by television, satellite or Internet which

710 promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless such
711 video is accompanied by the disclaimer described in subdivision (2) of
712 subsection (h) of this section;

713 (B) An audio communication broadcast by radio, satellite or Internet
714 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless
715 such audio communication is accompanied by the disclaimer described
716 in subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of this section; and

717 (C) Telephone calls which promote the success or defeat of any
718 referendum question unless such telephone calls are accompanied by
719 the disclaimer described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this
720 section.

721 (d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section do not
722 apply to (1) any editorial, news story, or commentary published in any
723 newspaper, magazine or journal on its own behalf and upon its own
724 responsibility and for which it does not charge or receive any
725 compensation whatsoever, (2) any banner, (3) political paraphernalia
726 including pins, buttons, badges, emblems, hats, bumper stickers or
727 other similar materials, or (4) signs with a surface area of not more than
728 thirty-two square feet.

729 Sec. 17. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 9-621 of the general
730 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
731 (*Effective from passage*):

732 (h) (1) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for
733 any written, typed or other printed communication, including on a
734 billboard, or any web-based, written communication, which promotes
735 the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a
736 primary or for election, unless such communication bears upon its face,
737 as a disclaimer, the words "Paid for by" and the name of such person
738 and the following statement: "This message was made independent of
739 any candidate or political party.". In the case of a person making or
740 incurring such an independent expenditure during the ninety-day
741 period immediately prior to the primary or election for which the

742 independent expenditure is made, such communication shall also bear
743 upon its face the names of the five persons who made the five largest
744 aggregate covered transfers to the person making such communication
745 during the twelve-month period immediately prior to such primary or
746 election, as applicable. The communication shall also state that
747 additional information about the person making such communication
748 may be found on the State Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet
749 web site.

750 Sec. 18. Subsection (i) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
751 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
752 *passage*):

753 (i) In any [print, television or social media promotion of a slate of]
754 organization expenditure for a party candidate listing of a candidate or
755 candidates by a party committee, [the party] legislative caucus
756 committee or legislative leadership committee, such committee shall use
757 applicable disclaimers pursuant to the provisions of this section for such
758 promotion, and no individual candidate disclaimers shall be required.

759 Sec. 19. Subsection (l) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
760 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
761 *passage*):

762 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no person making
763 an independent expenditure for a communication shall be required to
764 list as part of any disclaimer pursuant to this section any person whose
765 covered transfers to the maker of the communication are not in an
766 aggregate amount of five thousand dollars or more during the twelve-
767 month period immediately prior to the primary, [or] election or
768 referendum, as applicable, for which such independent expenditure is
769 made.

770 Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general
771 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
772 (*Effective from passage*):

773 (g) (1) (A) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission
774 pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a
775 preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day
776 following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, [(A)]
777 (i) dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of
778 state election law supported by evidence, [(B)] (ii) engage the
779 respondent in discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter
780 pertaining to a de minimis violation, or [(C)] (iii) investigate and docket
781 the complaint for a determination by the commission that probable
782 cause or no probable cause exists for any such violation. If commission
783 staff dismisses a complaint pursuant to subparagraph [(A)] (A)(i) of this
784 subdivision, such staff shall provide a brief written statement concisely
785 setting forth the reasons for such dismissal. If commission staff engages
786 a respondent pursuant to subparagraph [(B)] (A)(ii) of this subdivision
787 but is unable to speedily resolve any such matter described in said
788 subparagraph by the forty-fifth day following receipt of the complaint,
789 such staff shall docket such complaint for a determination by the
790 commission that probable cause or no probable cause exists for any
791 violation of state election law. If the commission does not, by the sixtieth
792 day following receipt of the complaint, either issue a decision or render
793 its determination that probable cause or no probable cause exists for any
794 violation of state election laws, the complainant or respondent may
795 apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford for an
796 order to show cause why the commission has not acted upon the
797 complaint and to provide evidence that the commission has
798 unreasonably delayed action.

799 (B) (i) For any complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, but prior
800 to July 1, 2024, if the commission does not, by one year following receipt
801 of such complaint, issue a decision thereon, the commission shall
802 dismiss such complaint, provided the length of time of any delay caused
803 by [(i)] (I) the commission or commission staff granting any extension
804 or continuance to a respondent prior to the issuance of any such
805 decision, [(ii)] (II) any subpoena issued in connection with such
806 complaint, [(iii)] (III) any litigation in state or federal court related to
807 such complaint, or [(iv)] (IV) any investigation by, or consultation of the

808 commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney, the
809 Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the United
810 States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall be
811 added to such one year.

812 (ii) For any complaint received on or after July 1, 2024, if the
813 commission does not, by one year following receipt of such complaint,
814 find reason to believe that a violation of state election law has been
815 committed and commence a contested case, as defined in section 4-166,
816 the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the length of
817 time of any delay caused by (I) the commission or commission staff
818 granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to such
819 finding of reason to believe, (II) any subpoena issued in connection with
820 such complaint, (III) any litigation in state or federal court related to
821 such complaint, (IV) any investigation by the commission or
822 commission staff involving a potential violation of section 9-601c, as
823 amended by this act, or 9-601d, as amended by this act, or (V) any
824 investigation by, or consultation of the commission or commission staff
825 with, the Chief State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the United States
826 Department of Justice or the United States Attorney for Connecticut
827 related to such complaint, shall be added to such one year.

828 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-611 of the general statutes is
829 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
830 *passage*):

831 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, for
832 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate
833 or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
834 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
835 the office of (1) Governor, in excess of three thousand five hundred
836 dollars; (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer,
837 Comptroller or Attorney General, in excess of two thousand dollars; (3)
838 chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of one
839 thousand dollars; (4) [state senator or] probate judge, in excess of one
840 thousand dollars; or (5) state senator or state representative or any other

841 office of a municipality not previously included in this subsection, in
842 excess of two hundred fifty dollars. The limits imposed by this
843 subsection shall be applied separately to primaries and elections.

844 Sec. 22. Section 9-704 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
845 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
846 *passage*):

847 (a) The amount of qualifying contributions that the candidate
848 committee of a candidate shall be required to receive in order to be
849 eligible for grants from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be:

850 (1) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
851 of Governor, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of
852 two hundred fifty thousand dollars, of which two hundred twenty-five
853 thousand dollars or more is contributed by individuals residing in the
854 state, [except that in the case of a primary or election held in 2022, or
855 thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts shall be first adjusted
856 under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and then rounded
857 to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars
858 rounded upward.] The provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to
859 the following: (A) Except as provided in [subparagraph (C) of this
860 subdivision and] subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after January
861 1, 2019, the candidate committee shall return the portion of any
862 contribution or contributions from any individual, including said
863 candidate, that exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such
864 excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate
865 contribution amounts under this subdivision, and (B) all contributions
866 received by (i) an exploratory committee established by said candidate,
867 or (ii) an exploratory committee or candidate committee of a candidate
868 for the office of Lieutenant Governor who is deemed to be jointly
869 campaigning with a candidate for nomination or election to the office of
870 Governor under subsection (a) of section 9-709, which meet the criteria
871 for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section
872 shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amounts,
873 [and (C) in the case of a primary or election held in 2022, or thereafter,

874 the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount
875 provided in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be first adjusted
876 under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and then rounded
877 to the nearest multiple of ten dollars with exactly five dollars rounded
878 upward.]

879 (2) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
880 of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State
881 Treasurer or Secretary of the State, contributions from individuals in the
882 aggregate amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, of which sixty-
883 seven thousand five hundred dollars or more is contributed by
884 individuals residing in the state, [except that in the case of a primary
885 or election for Lieutenant Governor held in 2022, or thereafter, the
886 aggregate contribution amounts shall be first adjusted under
887 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and then rounded to the
888 nearest multiple of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars
889 rounded upward and in the case of a primary or election for Attorney
890 General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held
891 in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts shall be first
892 adjusted under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section and then
893 rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty
894 dollars rounded upward.] The provisions of this subdivision shall be
895 subject to the following: (A) Except as provided in [subparagraph (C) of
896 this subdivision and] subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after
897 January 1, 2019, the candidate committee shall return the portion of any
898 contribution or contributions from any individual, including said
899 candidate, that exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such
900 excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate
901 contribution amounts under this subdivision, and (B) all contributions
902 received by an exploratory committee established by said candidate that
903 meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees
904 under this section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate
905 contribution amounts. [, and (C) in the case of a primary or election held
906 in 2022, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum
907 individual contribution amount provided in subparagraph (A) of this
908 subdivision shall be first adjusted under subdivision (1) of subsection

909 (c) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars
910 with exactly five dollars rounded upward.]

911 (3) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
912 of state senator for a district, contributions from individuals in the
913 aggregate amount of fifteen thousand dollars, including contributions
914 from at least three hundred individuals residing in municipalities
915 included, in whole or in part, in said district, [, except that in the case of
916 a primary or election held in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate
917 contribution amount shall be first adjusted under subdivision (3) of
918 subsection (b) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple
919 of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars rounded upward.] The
920 provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A)
921 Except as provided in [subparagraph (D) of this subdivision and]
922 subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after December 1, 2017, the
923 candidate committee shall return the portion of any contribution or
924 contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that
925 exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such excess portion shall
926 not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
927 under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the
928 purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions
929 from at least three hundred individuals residing in municipalities
930 included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is
931 five dollars or more, and (C) all contributions received by an exploratory
932 committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for
933 qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section
934 shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
935 under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee
936 contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for
937 contributions from at least three hundred individuals residing in
938 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be
939 counted for the purposes of said requirement, [, and (D) in the case of a
940 primary or election held in 2020, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-
941 dollar maximum individual contribution amount provided in
942 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be adjusted under
943 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and then rounded to the

944 nearest multiple of ten dollars with exactly five dollars rounded
945 upward.]

946 (4) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
947 of state representative for a district, contributions from individuals in
948 the aggregate amount of five thousand dollars, including contributions
949 from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in municipalities
950 included, in whole or in part, in said district, [, except that in the case of
951 a primary or election held in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate
952 contribution amount shall be first adjusted under subdivision (3) of
953 subsection (b) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple
954 of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars rounded upward.] The
955 provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A)
956 Except as provided in [subparagraph (D) of this subdivision and]
957 subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after December 1, 2017, the
958 candidate committee shall return the portion of any contribution or
959 contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that
960 exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such excess portion shall
961 not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
962 under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the
963 purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions
964 from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in municipalities
965 included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is
966 five dollars or more, and (C) all contributions received by an exploratory
967 committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for
968 qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section
969 shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
970 under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee
971 contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for
972 contributions from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in
973 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be
974 counted for the purposes of said requirement, [, and (D) in the case of a
975 primary or election held in 2020, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-
976 dollar maximum individual contribution amount provided in
977 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be adjusted under
978 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and then rounded to the

979 nearest multiple of ten dollars with exactly five dollars rounded
980 upward.]

981 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (3) and (4) of this
982 subsection, in the case of a special election for the office of state senator
983 or state representative for a district, (A) the aggregate amount of
984 qualifying contributions that the candidate committee of a candidate for
985 such office shall be required to receive in order to be eligible for a grant
986 from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be seventy-five per cent or more
987 of the corresponding amount required under the applicable said
988 subdivision (3) or (4), [as adjusted and rounded pursuant to the
989 applicable provisions of subsection (b) of this section,] and (B) the
990 number of contributions required from individuals residing in
991 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in said district shall be
992 seventy-five per cent or more of the corresponding number required
993 under the applicable said subdivision (3) or (4).

994 [(b) (1) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant
995 Governor held in 2022, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution
996 amounts in subdivision (1) or (2), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this
997 section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
998 Commission not later than January 15, 2022, and quadrennially
999 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
1000 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
1001 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
1002 January 1, 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year
1003 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

1004 (2) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State Comptroller,
1005 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in 2018, and thereafter, the
1006 aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
1007 this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
1008 Commission not later than January 15, 2018, and quadrennially
1009 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
1010 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
1011 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on

1012 January 1, 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year
1013 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

1014 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1015 for elections for the office of state senator or state representative held in
1016 2018, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision
1017 (3) or (4), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted
1018 by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January
1019 15, 2018, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the
1020 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
1021 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
1022 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December
1023 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to
1024 be made.

1025 (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
1026 held in 2024, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (3) or
1027 (4), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by
1028 the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January 15,
1029 2024, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all
1030 urban consumers as published by the United States Department of
1031 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
1032 January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2021.

1033 (c) (1) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
1034 Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the
1035 State held in 2022, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
1036 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (1) or (2), as
1037 applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
1038 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, 2022, and
1039 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the
1040 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
1041 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
1042 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December
1043 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to
1044 be made.

1045 (2) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
1046 held in 2020, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum
1047 individual contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4), as applicable,
1048 of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
1049 Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, 2020, and biennially
1050 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
1051 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
1052 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
1053 January 1, 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year
1054 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.]

1055 [(d)] (b) Each individual who makes a contribution of more than fifty
1056 dollars to a candidate committee established to aid or promote the
1057 success of a participating candidate for nomination or election shall
1058 include with the contribution a certification that contains the same
1059 information described in subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 9-
1060 608 and shall follow the same procedure prescribed in said subsection.

1061 [(e)] (c) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying
1062 contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall be returned
1063 by the treasurer of the candidate committee to the contributor or
1064 transmitted to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit
1065 in the Citizens' Election Fund:

1066 (1) A contribution from a principal of a state contractor or prospective
1067 state contractor;

1068 (2) A contribution of less than five dollars, and a contribution of five
1069 dollars or more from an individual who does not provide the full name
1070 and complete address of the individual;

1071 (3) A contribution under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this
1072 section from an individual who does not reside in the state, in excess of
1073 the applicable limit on contributions from out-of-state individuals in
1074 subsection (a) of this section; and

1075 (4) A contribution made by a youth who is less than twelve years of

1076 age.

1077 ~~[(f)]~~ (d) After a candidate committee receives the applicable aggregate
1078 amount of qualifying contributions under subsection (a) of this section,
1079 the candidate committee shall transmit any additional contributions
1080 that it receives to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Citizens' Election
1081 Fund.

1082 ~~[(g)]~~ (e) As used in this section, "principal of a state contractor or
1083 prospective state contractor" has the same meaning as provided in
1084 subsection (g) of section 9-612, and "individual" shall include sole
1085 proprietorships.

1086 Sec. 23. Section 9-622 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1087 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1088 The following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices and shall be
1089 punished in accordance with the provisions of section 9-623:

1090 (1) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or by another
1091 person, gives or offers or promises to any person any money, gift,
1092 advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other
1093 valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person to
1094 sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote or refrain
1095 from voting for or against any person or for or against any measure at
1096 any election, caucus, convention, primary or referendum;

1097 (2) Any person who, directly or indirectly, receives, accepts, requests
1098 or solicits from any person, committee, association, organization or
1099 corporation, any money, gift, advantage, preferment, aid, emolument or
1100 other valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any
1101 person to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote
1102 or refrain from voting for or against any person or for or against any
1103 measure at any such election, caucus, primary or referendum;

1104 (3) Any person who, in consideration of any money, gift, advantage,
1105 preferment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing paid, received,
1106 accepted or promised to the person's advantage or any other person's

1107 advantage, votes or refrains from voting for or against any person or for
1108 or against any measure at any such election, caucus, primary or
1109 referendum;

1110 (4) Any person who solicits from any candidate any money, gift,
1111 contribution, emolument or other valuable thing for the purpose of
1112 using the same for the support, assistance, benefit or expenses of any
1113 club, company or organization, or for the purpose of defraying the cost
1114 or expenses of any political campaign, primary, referendum or election;

1115 (5) Any person who, directly or indirectly, pays, gives, contributes or
1116 promises any money or other valuable thing to defray or towards
1117 defraying the cost or expenses of any campaign, primary, referendum
1118 or election to any person, committee, company, club, organization or
1119 association, other than to a treasurer, except that this subdivision shall
1120 not apply to any expenses for postage, telegrams, telephoning,
1121 stationery, express charges, traveling, meals, lodging or photocopying
1122 incurred by any candidate for office or for nomination to office, so far as
1123 may be permitted under the provisions of this chapter;

1124 (6) Any person who, in order to secure or promote the person's own
1125 nomination or election as a candidate, or that of any other person,
1126 directly or indirectly, promises to appoint, or promises to secure or
1127 assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of any other
1128 person to any public position, or to any position of honor, trust or
1129 emolument; but any person may publicly announce the person's own
1130 choice or purpose in relation to any appointment, nomination or
1131 election in which the person may be called to take part, if the person is
1132 nominated for or elected to such office;

1133 (7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through
1134 another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a treasurer
1135 in a name other than the person's own, and any treasurer who
1136 knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or
1137 causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name
1138 than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment
1139 is made;

1140 (8) Any person who knowingly and wilfully violates any provision
1141 of this chapter;

1142 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess of
1143 one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any political
1144 party, candidate or referendum question;

1145 (10) Any person who solicits, makes or receives a contribution that is
1146 otherwise prohibited by any provision of this chapter;

1147 (11) Any department head or deputy department head of a state
1148 department who solicits a contribution on behalf of, or for the benefit of,
1149 any candidate for state, district or municipal office or any political party;

1150 (12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf
1151 of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal
1152 office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an
1153 individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or
1154 a dependent child of such individual;

1155 (13) Any person who makes an expenditure, that is not an
1156 independent expenditure, for a candidate without the knowledge of
1157 such candidate. No candidate shall be civilly or criminally liable with
1158 regard to any such expenditure;

1159 (14) Any chief of staff of a legislative caucus who solicits a
1160 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,
1161 district or municipal office from an employee of the legislative caucus;

1162 (15) Any chief of staff for a state-wide elected official who solicits a
1163 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,
1164 district or municipal office from a member of such official's staff; [or]

1165 (16) Any chief of staff for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor who
1166 solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for
1167 state, district or municipal office from a member of the staff of the
1168 Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or from any commissioner or deputy
1169 commissioner of any state agency;

1170 (17) Any consultant that fails to provide complete information to a
1171 committee or person required to file any disclosure statement or report
1172 pursuant to section 9-601d, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended
1173 by this act, as applicable, which complete information is necessary for
1174 such committee or person to file such statement or report; or

1175 (18) Any consultant that (A) except for such consultant's overhead or
1176 normal operating expenses, makes or obligates to make an expenditure,
1177 or directly or indirectly authorizes any subvendor to make or obligate
1178 to make such an expenditure, on behalf of a candidate, committee or
1179 other person, and (B) does so without the knowledge of such candidate,
1180 committee or other person.

1181 Sec. 24. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
1182 "consultant", "candidate", "committee", "expenditure", "subvendor" and
1183 "person" have the same meanings as provided in section 9-601 of the
1184 general statutes, as amended by this act.

1185 (b) (1) A consultant that receives or agrees to receive payment from a
1186 candidate or committee and that makes or obligates to make any
1187 expenditure, including any payment to a subvendor, for or on behalf of
1188 a committee or person required to file a report pursuant to section 9-
1189 601d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 9-608 of the
1190 general statutes, as amended by this act, as applicable, shall, once such
1191 consultant has made or obligated to make any such expenditure to a
1192 subvendor, provide to such committee or person a statement with a
1193 detailed account of such expenditure, including, but not limited to, (A)
1194 the amount and date of such expenditure and the person that received
1195 such payment, (B) the full name and street address of such subvendor,
1196 (C) the purpose of such payment and a description of such purpose, (D)
1197 the name of any candidate or text of any referendum question supported
1198 or opposed by such expenditure, and (E) if applicable, the date of any
1199 event with which such payment is associated, including, but not limited
1200 to, any expenditure directly or indirectly made by a consultant to a
1201 subvendor for any (i) written, typed or other printed communication, or
1202 any web-based written communication, that (I) promotes the success or

1203 defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination or election or any
1204 referendum question, or (II) solicits funds to benefit any candidate or
1205 committee, (ii) advertising time or space, including, but not limited to,
1206 television or Internet video, radio or Internet audio, telephone call or
1207 web-based or social media communication, (iii) wages incurred as a
1208 result of work for any candidate or committee, (iv) survey, poll,
1209 signature gathering or door-to-door solicitation of voters, (v) facilities,
1210 invitations or entertainment for fundraising or other campaign events,
1211 or (vi) printing of mass campaign mailings or postage for such mailings.
1212 Such consultant shall provide the information described in this
1213 subdivision to such committee or person not later than five days after
1214 making or obligating to make such expenditure.

1215 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
1216 subsection, if a consultant makes or obligates to make payment for an
1217 expenditure for which a committee or person is required to file a report
1218 pursuant to section 9-601d of the general statutes, as amended by this
1219 act, or 9-608 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as applicable,
1220 such consultant shall, concomitant with making or obligating to make
1221 such payment, provide to such committee or person complete
1222 information necessary to file such report.

1223 (c) (1) Any committee or person that makes or obligates to make
1224 payment for an expenditure to a consultant, which consultant is
1225 required to provide to such committee or person the information
1226 described in subsection (b) of this section, shall include in any report
1227 required to be filed by such committee or person pursuant to section 9-
1228 601d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 9-608 of the
1229 general statutes, as amended by this act, as applicable, (A) the full name
1230 and street address of each subvendor to which payment was made or
1231 obligated to be made during the period covered by such filing, (B) the
1232 amount and date of such payment, (C) the purpose of such payment and
1233 a description of such purpose, (D) the name of any candidate or text of
1234 any referendum question supported or opposed by such expenditure,
1235 and (E) if applicable, the date of any event with which such payment is
1236 associated. The contents of such report shall include any other

1237 information that the State Elections Enforcement Commission may
1238 require to facilitate compliance with the provisions of chapters 155 to
1239 157, inclusive, of the general statutes, and shall be submitted on a form
1240 prescribed by the commission.

1241 (2) Except for such consultant's overhead or normal operating
1242 expenses, a consultant shall not make any expenditure for or on behalf
1243 of a candidate or committee, including, but not limited to, any
1244 expenditure described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section,
1245 unless complete information of such expenditure is provided to the
1246 person required to file a report pursuant to section 9-601d of the general
1247 statutes, as amended by this act, or 9-608 of the general statutes, as
1248 amended by this act, as applicable, or the committee on whose behalf or
1249 for whose benefit such consultant is acting.

1250 (d) Each consultant shall keep a detailed account of each expenditure
1251 made or obligated to be made for or on behalf of any committee or
1252 person required to file a report pursuant to section 9-601d of the general
1253 statutes, as amended by this act, or 9-608 of the general statutes, as
1254 amended by this act, as applicable, and shall retain all records of each
1255 transaction required to be included in any report filed pursuant to
1256 section 9-601d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 9-608
1257 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, as applicable, for a period
1258 of four years after the date of the report in which such transaction was
1259 included. Such records shall include, but need not be limited to, any
1260 invoice, receipt, bill, statement, itinerary or other written or
1261 documentary evidence demonstrating the campaign or other lawful
1262 purpose of such expenditure and shall be made available to the State
1263 Elections Enforcement Commission upon request.

1264 (e) If a subvendor makes or obligates to make any payment described
1265 in subsection (b) of this section, such subvendor shall be deemed a
1266 consultant and shall comply with the requirements set forth in this
1267 section for a consultant.

1268 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a financial
1269 obligation shall not be made or incurred for or on behalf of a committee

1270 unless authorized by the treasurer of such committee pursuant to
1271 section 9-607 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

1272 Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) If the treasurer of the candidate
1273 committee of a participating candidate, as described in section 9-703 of
1274 the general statutes, spends or obligates to spend fifteen per cent or
1275 more, in the aggregate, of the moneys received from the Citizens'
1276 Election Fund on the services of a consultant or other professional
1277 person as provided in subparagraph (P) of subdivision (2) of subsection
1278 (g) of section 9-607 of the general statutes, such consultant or
1279 professional person shall register with the State Elections Enforcement
1280 Commission as such for the candidate committee and file an affidavit
1281 with the commission. The affidavit shall include written certifications
1282 that such consultant or professional person shall (1) comply with the
1283 provisions of chapters 155 and 157 of the general statutes, (2) maintain
1284 and furnish all records required pursuant to said chapters and any
1285 regulation adopted by the commission thereunder, and (3) expend all
1286 moneys for or on behalf of such candidate committee in accordance with
1287 the provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general statutes,
1288 as amended by this act, and any regulation adopted by the commission
1289 under subsection (e) of section 9-706 of the general statutes. The
1290 commission shall prepare a list of each consultant or other professional
1291 person for the candidate committee of each participating candidate and
1292 shall make such list available for public inspection. As used in this
1293 section, "treasurer", "candidate committee" and "consultant" have the
1294 same meanings as provided in section 9-601 of the general statutes, as
1295 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(33) to (35)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(3)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-601c(e)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-601d(a) to (i)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-605(b)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-607(g)(1)

Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-608(e)(1)(C)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-611
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-612(a) and (b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-613
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-614
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-615
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-618(a)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	9-619(a)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	9-620
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(c) and (d)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(h)(1)
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(i)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(l)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	9-7a(g)(1)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	9-611(a)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-704
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	9-622
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 4(a), "subsection (c)" was changed to "subsections (c) and (d)" for accuracy; in Section 4(c)(5), "subparagraph (A) of" was deleted for accuracy; in Section 4(f)(1), "if a person" was changed to "if (A) a person" and "expenditure (A) has" was changed to "expenditure [(A)] has" for clarity; in Section 4(i)(1)(B), "report required in accordance with" was changed to "report [required] in accordance with" for consistency; in Section 17(h)(1), "or election" was changed to "or for election" for clarity; and in Section 20(g)(1)(A), "subparagraph (A)(i)" was changed to "subparagraph [(A)] (A)(i)" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

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
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the Citizen's Election Fund	CEF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund ; CEF= Citizens' Election Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of changes concerning referenda, campaign finance changes and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 4 raises existing campaign finance reporting thresholds and makes a variety of changes around disclosures and campaign filings and increases the civil penalties that the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) may impose resulting in potential revenue to the SEEC. The bill increases the maximum penalty for failing to report an independent expenditure from \$10,000 to \$20,000 or twice the amount of the unreported independent expenditure. The bill also raises existing penalties for willful failure to file from a maximum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 or ten times the unreported independent expenditure. The potential revenue will depend on the total number of violations and the penalties imposed.

Section 22 eliminates the existing requirement that qualifying contributions be adjusted for inflation for purposes of receiving grants from the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). This provision results in a potential cost to the Resources of the Citizens' Election Fund¹, to the extent that the lower qualifying contribution increases the number of qualified individuals receiving grants.

Section 23, which 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.² On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300³ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800⁴ each year for adults and \$1,000 each year.

The Out Years

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

¹ The Citizens' Election Fund expended \$22.3 million in FY 23.

² Since 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.

³ Inmate 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.

⁴ Probation 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**sSB 252****AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA, INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND OTHER CAMPAIGN FINANCE CHANGES.****SUMMARY**

This bill changes laws affecting campaign finance and elections. Principally, it does the following:

1. codifies “independent expenditure political committee” (known as an IE-only PAC) as a type of political committee (PAC) and requires IE-only PACs to register with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) (§§ 1-3, 6, 7 & 9-15);
2. classifies referendum PACs as IE-only PACs and makes conforming changes (§ 15);
3. expands independent expenditure (IE) disclosure requirements while increasing the expenditure threshold that triggers the requirements (§ 4);
4. increases the maximum penalties for failing to file IE reports (§ 4);
5. modifies PAC registration requirements, including expanding the contents of the registration statement (§ 5);
6. in conformity with current practice, eliminates aggregate individual contribution limits to certain committees (§ 8);
7. expands disclaimer requirements for referenda and party candidate listings (§§ 16-19);
8. narrows the circumstances under which SEEC must dismiss a complaint within one year after receiving it (§ 20);

9. decreases, from \$1,000 to \$250, the limit on contributions by an individual to a candidate for state senator in a primary or general election (§ 21);
10. restores Citizens' Election Program (CEP) qualifying contribution limits and aggregate amounts to their base levels (§ 22); and
11. increases campaign consultants' disclosure requirements (§§ 23-25).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1-3, 6, 7 & 9-15 — IE-ONLY PACS

The law authorizes persons (including individuals, entities, and committees) to make unlimited IEs and defines "independent expenditure" as an expenditure made without the consent, coordination, or consultation of a (1) candidate or candidate's agent, (2) candidate committee, (3) PAC, or (4) party committee (CGS § 9-601c).

The bill codifies "independent expenditure political committee" (known as an IE-only PAC) as a type of PAC under Connecticut's campaign finance laws and, like other committees that make IEs, requires their registration with SEEC. It defines them as PACs that make only (1) IEs and (2) contributions to other IE-only PACs (see BACKGROUND). It also allows these PACs to (1) coordinate with other IE-only PACs to make IEs and (2) make donations to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) and 501(c)(19) (veterans) organizations and refund contributor contributions.

The bill makes several conforming changes, including specifying that (1) individuals, business entities, and labor unions may make contributions to IE-only PACs and (2) various types of IE-only PACs, such as those formed for a single election or primary, may not make contributions except to other IE-only PACs. It also classifies referendum

PACs as IE-only PACs.

Lawful Purposes (§ 6)

The bill defines “lawful purposes of the committee” for IE-only PACs as promoting the following:

1. a political party,
2. the success or defeat of candidates for nomination or election to a public office or position regulated by state campaign finance laws, or
3. the success or defeat of referendum questions.

Existing law generally allows PACs to pay specific expenses to accomplish their lawful purposes.

Surplus Distributions (§ 7)

By law, candidate committees and PACs, other than exploratory committees or PACs organized for ongoing political activities, must generally spend or distribute surplus funds (1) within 90 days after (a) a primary when a candidate loses or (b) an election or referendum not held in November or (2) by March 31 following an election or a referendum held in November.

The bill establishes a surplus distribution procedure for IE-only PACs, other than those formed for ongoing activities. Specifically, it requires them to distribute surplus funds, according to the schedule outlined above, to (1) their contributors, on a prorated basis; (2) state or municipal governments or agencies; or (3) tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations.

Referendum PACs (§§ 7 & 15)

The bill classifies referendum PACs as IE-only PACs and makes conforming changes. Specifically, it allows any person to establish an IE-only PAC for a single referendum question or multiple questions submitted to a vote on the same day. Under the bill, the committee may make IEs only for these purposes.

Relatedly, the bill eliminates provisions in current law that establish surplus distributions for referendum PACs and instead subjects them to the bill's procedure for IE-only PACs.

§ 4 — REPORTING IES AND COVERED TRANSFERS

Under current law, persons must disclose information about IEs they make that exceed \$1,000 in the aggregate by filing certain reports. A "person" is an individual, committee, firm, partnership, organization, association, syndicate, company trust, corporation, limited liability company, or any other legal entity (other than the state or its political or administrative subdivisions) (CGS § 9-601(10)).

The bill does the following:

1. increases, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the aggregate expenditure threshold that triggers the filing requirements;
2. changes the period during which IE disclosure reports are subject to a 24-hour electronic filing deadline;
3. expands disclosure requirements for persons that make IEs without forming a PAC (known as "incidental spenders");
4. increases the maximum penalties for failing to file IE reports; and
5. conforms law to practice by requiring that, to disclose IEs, (a) incidental spenders use SEEC's long- and short-form reports and (b) PACs, including IE-only PACs, use SEEC's campaign finance forms for PACs formed in Connecticut.

As under existing law, IEs made for or against (1) statewide office or legislative candidates, or statewide referenda, must be filed with SEEC and (2) municipal office candidates or municipal referenda must be filed with town clerks.

24-Hour Report Filing Deadline

Under current law, a person must electronically file a disclosure report within 24 hours after making or obligating to make an IE during

a primary or general election campaign that exceeds \$1,000 in the aggregate and promotes the success or defeat of a statewide office or legislative candidate.

The bill increases the aggregate expenditure threshold to \$5,000 and instead applies the 24-hour electronic filing requirement to these IEs made or obligated to be made during the period (1) beginning June 1 in a regular election year or, in the case of a special election for state senator or state representative, the day the governor issues writs of election, and (2) ending on the day after the primary or general election for which the IE is made or incurred. In the case of a special election, a person that makes or obligates to make an IE that exceeds \$5,000 in the aggregate before the governor issues the writs must electronically file the IE report within 24 hours after the governor issues the writs.

Additionally, the bill applies the 24-hour reporting requirement to IEs within this timeframe that promote the success or defeat of a referendum question proposing a constitutional amendment, convention, or revision.

For any other IEs (those not subject to 24-hour reporting requirements), the bill requires that IE reports be filed according to the same schedule as the periodic statements filed by PACs.

Disclosures by Incidental Spenders

Existing law requires persons, other than PACs (as described above), to disclose information about IEs they make using SEEC's long- and short-form reports (i.e., SEEC Form 26) (see BACKGROUND). The bill adds to the information that these IE-makers must disclose in these reports.

Under the bill, they must additionally disclose the following in the long-form report:

1. the name of the human being who had direct, extensive, and substantive decision-making authority over the IE being disclosed, as well as his or her mailing address, telephone

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- number, and e-mail;
2. for the person making or obligating to make the IE, a statement indicating if the person files a report with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), IRS, or any similar out-of-state agency, and identifying information under which the filing is made;
 3. generally, any street address that differs from any mailing address required by the form; and
 4. for a referendum, its date, the question's text, and whether the IE supported or opposed it.

Under the bill, the short-form report must also disclose, for a referendum, the question's text and an allocation of the expenditure in support or opposition to it.

Disclosing Covered Transfers. As part of both the long- and short-form reports, the law requires a person to disclose the source and amount of any covered transfer of \$5,000 or more, in the aggregate, received during the 12 months before the applicable primary or election if the IE (for which the report is being filed) is made or obligated to be made 180 days or less before the primary or election. The bill extends the requirement to covered transfers made to promote or oppose a referendum question proposing a constitutional amendment, convention, or revision.

The law exempts from this disclosure requirement a person that discloses the source and amount of a covered transfer in a report it files with the FEC or the IRS, as long as the person includes a copy of the report in the statement it files with SEEC. The bill extends the exemption to persons that include in their IE reports information sufficient for SEEC to find their FEC or IRS filing. The bill also extends this exemption to apply to similar out-of-state agency reports.

Under current law if a person makes the IE from a dedicated IE account, the IE report and disclaimer (see below) may include only persons that made covered transfers to it directly. The bill requires that

the report and disclaimer include this information but removes a provision limiting it to only this information.

By law, a “covered transfer” is, with certain exceptions, any donation, transfer, or payment of funds by a person to a recipient that (1) makes IEs or (2) transfers funds to another person that makes IEs (CGS § 9-601(29)).

Penalties for Failure to File an IE Report

The bill increases the maximum civil penalties SEEC may impose for failure to file certain required IE reports. It also subjects IEs that support or oppose referendum questions to these penalties.

Specifically, existing law allows SEEC to impose a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for failing to file a report for an IE that is made or obligated more than 90 days before a primary or general election. The bill extends this penalty and the penalties described below to IEs that support or oppose a referendum.

For IEs made or obligated 90 days or fewer before a primary or general election, SEEC may currently impose a maximum penalty of \$20,000 for failing to file a report. The bill instead allows SEEC to impose a penalty of up to \$20,000 or twice the amount of any unreported IE, including for a referendum, whichever is greater.

Currently, a knowing and willful failure to file an IE report is punishable by an additional fine of up to \$50,000. The bill instead allows SEEC to impose an additional civil penalty of up to \$50,000 or 10 times the amount of any unreported expenditure, whichever is greater.

In addition, the bill establishes personal liability for a civil penalty that remains unpaid after the later of one year after the date when (1) SEEC imposed it or (2) a final judgment is issued by a court following any appeal of SEEC’s action. Specifically, the bill makes the following individuals personally liable:

1. in the case of a committee, the chairperson and any officer, or

2. in the case of a person other than a committee, (a) the CEO, CFO, or equivalent; (b) any other officer; and (c) any manager who had direct, extensive, and substantive decision-making authority over the IE or IEs made or obligated to be made.

§ 5 — PAC REGISTRATIONS

By law, most PACs must register with SEEC and designate a treasurer. They may also designate a deputy treasurer. The registration statement must include, among other things, the committee's name and purpose.

The bill expands the required contents of the PAC registration statement. Under current law, for a committee that files reports with the FEC or an out-of-state agency, the registration must include a statement to that effect and the agency's name. The bill expands this provision to include reports filed with the IRS and also requires that the statement include identifying information under which those filings are made.

In addition, if a committee is established or controlled by a person or individual acting as an agent for a person, the statement must indicate the person's name. If a committee is established or controlled by a person other than a human being, the statement must indicate the name of the CEO or an equivalent. Current law requires only that a PAC established by a business entity or organization (i.e., a labor union) indicate the name of the entity or organization.

§ 8 — AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALS

State law generally limits the amount that individuals may contribute to a specific candidate committee, party committee, or PAC. The bill conforms the law to SEEC practice by eliminating an aggregate limit on certain contributions by an individual. Under this limit, an individual may not contribute more than \$30,000 in the aggregate during a single primary and election to (1) candidate committees, (2) exploratory committees, and (3) slate committees for justice of the peace (in a primary). In practice, SEEC does not enforce this aggregate limit (see BACKGROUND).

§§ 16-19 — POLITICAL ATTRIBUTIONS***IEs and Referenda (§§ 16, 17 & 19)***

By law, printed, video, and audio political communications (both IEs and non-IEs) must include certain attributions, known as “disclaimers.” Among other things, they must identify the person making the expenditure for the communication.

Under current law, only the disclaimer requirements for printed communications apply to expenditures made for a referendum. The bill extends, to IEs promoting a referendum question’s success or defeat, existing law’s disclaimer requirements for election- and primary-related IEs made for video and audio communications and telephone calls. Generally, each of these disclaimers must (1) include the name of the IE-maker and a statement that the expenditure was made independent of any candidate or political party and (2) state that additional information about the IE-maker is available on SEEC’s website.

Additionally, communications made within 90 days before the primary or election also state the names of the five persons that made the five largest covered transfers to the IE-maker, in the aggregate, during the 12 months immediately before the referendum. As under existing law for other communications, the bill allows disclaimers for referendum IEs to omit any person that made covered transfers to it of less than \$5,000, in the aggregate, during the 12 months immediately before the referendum.

The bill also specifies that, with respect to elections and primaries, existing law’s disclaimer requirements apply only to those IEs promoting a candidate’s success or defeat for nomination or election.

Party Candidate Listings (§ 18)

Current law requires that party committees (i.e., town and state central) use the appropriate disclaimer in any print, television, or social media promotion of a slate of candidates (disclaimers by individual candidates are not required). The bill instead requires that organization expenditures for party candidate listings by a party committee,

legislative caucus committee, or legislative leadership committee use the appropriate disclaimer.

By law, a “party candidate listing” is a communication that (1) lists the name or names of candidates for election; (2) is distributed through public advertising (e.g., cable television, newspapers, or similar media), direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible Internet sites, or personal delivery; and (3) is made to promote the success or defeat of a candidate or slate of candidates seeking nomination or election, or to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question or a political party. The communication may not be a solicitation for or on behalf of a candidate committee (CGS § 9-601(25)(A)).

§ 20 — SEEC INVESTIGATIONS

By law, SEEC receives complaints from the secretary of the state, registrars of voters, town clerks, and individuals under oath about alleged election law violations. It investigates and holds hearings as it deems appropriate (CGS § 9-7b(a)(1)). The bill narrows the circumstances under which SEEC must dismiss a complaint within one year after receiving it.

Time Limit

Currently, SEEC must dismiss a complaint it receives on or after January 1, 2018, if it does not issue a final decision on it within one year after receiving the complaint. However, the deadline must be extended if specified actions delay the final decision’s issuance.

The bill relaxes this requirement for SEEC complaints received on or after July 1, 2024. It instead requires the commission to dismiss after one year any complaint for which it has not (1) found reason to believe a state election law violation occurred and (2) initiated a contested case proceeding.

The bill also (1) requires that the deadline for making this finding be extended for the same reasons that the final decision deadline must be extended under current law and (2) establishes an additional reason for extending this deadline (see below). As under current law, the one-year

deadline must be extended by the length of the delay.

Extensions

Under current law, the one-year deadline for SEEC to issue a final decision must be extended if its issuance is delayed for any of the following reasons:

1. extension or continuance granted to a respondent by SEEC or its staff before issuing the decision;
2. issuance of a subpoena in connection with the complaint;
3. litigation in state or federal court related to the complaint; or
4. consultation with the chief state's attorney, attorney general, U.S. Department of Justice, or U.S. attorney for Connecticut.

The bill similarly requires an extension, for these same reasons, of the one-year deadline for finding reason to believe that an election law violation occurred and initiating a contested case. (SEEC regulations generally prohibit the commission from proceeding with a contested case unless it finds, by a majority vote of a quorum, reason to believe that a violation occurred (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 9-7b-35).)

The bill also requires an extension if the finding and commencement are delayed because of an investigation by SEEC or its staff involving a potential IE violation (e.g., making or reporting them).

§ 21 — CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

The bill decreases, from \$1,000 to \$250, the aggregate limit on contributions by an individual to a candidate for state senator. As under existing law, the limit applies separately to a primary and a general election.

§ 22 — CEP QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS

By law, the CEP is the state's voluntary public campaign financing system and is available to statewide and legislative office candidates. Candidates qualify for the CEP by raising an aggregate amount of

qualifying contributions (QCs), which must come from individual donors.

The bill eliminates the requirement that SEEC adjust for inflation both the maximum QC amount an individual may contribute as well as the aggregate QC amounts candidates must raise, thus restoring them to their base amounts. Under current law, SEEC must adjust these amounts before each regular election for statewide or legislative office.

By law, the base individual QC limit is \$250 for each statewide or legislative office. In the 2022 state election, the inflation-adjusted limit was \$290. The table below lists the base aggregate amount for each office and the 2022 inflation-adjusted amount.

Table: Aggregate QC Amounts

<i>Office</i>	<i>Base Amount</i>	<i>2022 Inflation-Adjusted Amount</i>
Governor	\$250,000	\$288,800
Lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and attorney general	75,000	86,600
State senator	15,000	17,300*
State representative	5,000	5,800*

*Under current law, these amounts also apply to the 2024 election

For the 2024 election, SEEC published an inflation-adjusted individual QC limit of \$320 for legislative candidates. It is unclear whether contributions raised before the bill's passage that exceed \$250 would still be deemed to be QCs.

§§ 23-25 — CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS

By law, treasurers of party committees, candidate committees, and PACs may pay consultants or other professional persons for campaign or committee services. The bill defines "consultant" and "subvendor" for campaign finance purposes and establishes registration, reporting, and record-keeping requirements for them.

Principally, the bill does the following:

1. requires consultants to provide detailed accountings of their expenditures, including to subvendors, to committees or persons on whose behalf they make payments;
2. requires committees and persons that make or obligate to make payments for expenditures to consultants to submit additional information in their campaign finance disclosure statements or IE reports, as applicable;
3. requires consultants to maintain, for at least four years, detailed records of certain expenditure transactions;
4. prohibits a financial obligation from being made or incurred on behalf of a committee unless authorized by the treasurer;
5. requires consultants and other professionals that work with candidates participating in the CEP to register with SEEC under certain conditions; and
6. establishes two additional illegal campaign finance practices.

The bill also makes technical changes.

Definitions (§§ 1 & 24)

The bill defines “consultant” as a person (1) that provides campaign strategy; design or management of campaign communications, literature, or advertising; or fundraising or management services, or (2) with duties that include identifying, hiring, or paying subvendors for goods or services on behalf of a committee or person required to file a campaign finance disclosure statement or IE report (hereafter “required filer”).

“Subvendor” means a person that (1) provides goods or services to a consultant or (2) contracts with a consultant or other subvendor to provide goods or services to a required filer. It does not include a consultant’s employee who has been employed by the consultant for at least three consecutive months prior to any month when a person or committee must file a report that accounts for an expenditure to the

consultant or one of his or her subvendors.

Under the bill, a subvendor is deemed a consultant if it makes the types of payments described below, including payments to other subvendors. At that point, it must comply with the bill's reporting and record-keeping requirements.

Reporting (§ 24)

Consultants. The bill establishes reporting requirements for consultants that (1) receive or agree to receive payment from a candidate or committee and (2) make or obligate to make expenditures, including payments to subvendors, for or on behalf of a required filer. Under existing law and the bill, consultants may work on behalf of party committees, candidate committees, and PACs.

Specifically, no later than five days after making or obligating to make an expenditure to a subvendor, the consultant must provide the person or committee with detailed accounting of the expenditure. If a consultant makes or obligates to make a payment for an expenditure that requires a committee or person to file a campaign finance disclosure statement or IE report, the consultant must, at the same time, provide that person or committee with all the information necessary to file the statement or report.

The detailed account must include the following information:

1. the expenditure's amount and date;
2. the name of the payment's recipient;
3. the subvendor's full name and street address;
4. a description of the payment's purpose;
5. the name of any candidate, or text of any referendum question, the expenditure supports or opposes; and
6. the date of any event associated with the payment, if applicable.

The bill specifies that expenditures triggering this reporting requirement include those made, directly or indirectly, to a subvendor for:

1. a written, typed, or other printed communication, or any web-based written communication, that (a) promotes the success or defeat of a candidate's campaign for nomination or election, or any referendum question, or (b) solicits funds to benefit any candidate or committee;
2. advertising time or space, including television or Internet video, radio or Internet audio, telephone calls, or web-based or social media communication;
3. wages incurred as a result of work for any candidate or committee;
4. survey, poll, signature gathering, or door-to-door voter solicitation;
5. facilities, invitations, or entertainment for fundraising or other campaign events; or
6. printing of, or postage for, mass campaign mailings.

The bill prohibits a consultant from making an expenditure without providing all of the required information to the applicable committee or person. The prohibition does not apply to overhead or normal operating expenses.

Persons and Committees That Pay Consultants. Under the bill, if a committee or person makes or obligates payments for an expenditure to a consultant that is subject to the above reporting requirements, the committee or person must submit additional information in the campaign finance disclosure statements or IE reports it files with SEEC or a town clerk, as applicable. Specifically, these statements and IE reports must include all of the information that the bill requires the consultant to provide to the committee or person (see above). The

committee or person must also include any other information SEEC requires to facilitate compliance with state campaign finance laws.

Maintaining Records (§ 24)

The bill requires consultants, including subvendors deemed consultants under the bill, to keep detailed accounts of each expenditure made or obligated for or on behalf of a required filer. They must also keep, for at least four years, records of each transaction required to be included in such a report.

These records must include any invoice, receipt, bill, statement, itinerary, or other written or documentary evidence demonstrating the expenditure's campaign or other lawful purpose. The bill requires that these records be made available to SEEC upon request.

Approving Financial Obligations (§ 24)

Generally, under existing law, a committee cannot incur a financial obligation unless authorized by its treasurer (CGS § 9-607). The bill additionally prohibits a financial obligation from being made or incurred for or on behalf of a committee unless authorized by the treasurer. So, under the bill, it appears that treasurers must approve financial obligations incurred by consultants or subvendors on behalf of the committee.

Consultants and CEP Candidate Committees (§ 25)

Under the bill, if a participating CEP candidate's treasurer spends or obligates to spend 15% or more, in the aggregate, of the candidate committee's Citizens' Election Fund grants on a consultant's or other professional's campaign or committee services, that person must register with SEEC by filing an affidavit. The affidavit must certify in writing the consultant's or professional's intent to (1) abide by state campaign finance and CEP laws; (2) maintain and provide all records required by these laws and SEEC regulations; and (3) spend funds in accordance with state law and SEEC regulations on permissible expenditures. Generally, by law, a participating candidate's committee must limit its spending to (1) prescribed amounts of QCs and

candidate's personal funds and (2) grants received under the program.

Under the bill, the registration applies to the candidate committee with which the consultant or professional works. SEEC must prepare and make publicly available a list of each registered consultant or other professional for each participating CEP candidate.

Illegal Campaign Practices (§ 23)

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)).

The bill adds the following as illegal campaign practices:

1. a consultant that fails to provide complete information to a committee or person so that it may file any required campaign finance disclosure statement or IE report; or
2. a consultant that, except for overhead or normal operating expenses, makes or obligates to make an expenditure, or directly or indirectly authorizes a subvendor to make or obligate to make an expenditure, on behalf of a candidate, PAC, or other person without their knowledge.

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sHB 5452 (§ 4), reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, exempts from the law's political advertising disclaimer requirements certain non-fundraising text or media messages.

sHB 5452 (§§ 7-9), reported favorably by the GAE Committee, moves up, from January 15 to January 1 in the year of a state election, the date by which SEEC must make CEP-related inflationary adjustments for that election cycle.

sHB 5498 (§ 30), reported favorably by the GAE Committee, requires that complaints filed with SEEC be referred to the chief state's attorney if the commission determines that probable cause exists but does not issue a decision within 90 days after that violation.

sSB 253 (File 208), reported favorably by the GAE Committee, exempts complaints regarding foreign nationals that are filed with SEEC from the statutory one-year deadline for the commission to adjudicate complaints.

sSB 392 (§ 5), reported favorably by the GAE Committee, requires SEEC to issue a decision on or dismiss a complaint before the day of an election if the complaint relates to that election and is received within 90 days before it.

Aggregate Contribution Limits

In *McCutcheon et al. v. Federal Election Commission*, 134 S. Ct. 1434 (2014), the U.S. Supreme Court held that aggregate limits on contributions by individuals to federal candidates, political parties, and PACs were unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

In Advisory Opinion 2014-03, SEEC announced that, unless it received further guidance from the legislature or a court of competent jurisdiction, it would no longer enforce current law's \$30,000 aggregate limit on contributions by individuals during a single primary and election to (1) candidate committees, (2) exploratory committees, and (3) slate committees for justice of the peace (in a primary).

IE-Only PACs

In Declaratory Ruling 2013-02, SEEC ruled that, in light of a line of cases ruling that contribution limits to IE-Only PACs are unconstitutional, it would no longer enforce contribution limits to PACs that receive and spend funds only for IEs unless it received further guidance from the legislature or a court.

Long- and Short-Form IE Reports

As part of these reports, a person must disclose the source and amount of any covered transfer of \$5,000 or more in the aggregate that it received during the 12 months before the applicable primary or

election. This requirement applies if the IE (for which the report is being filed) is made or obligated to be made 180 days or less before the primary or election (CGS § 9-601d(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/26/2024)