



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 5497**

LCO No. 2967



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES IN A CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
STATUTE.**

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

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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

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

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

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

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

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*