



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 387***

LCO No. 1850



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ONLINE DONATION  
PLATFORMS FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (b) As used in this chapter and chapter 157, "contribution" does not  
5 mean:

6 (1) A loan of money made in the ordinary course of business by a  
7 national or state bank;

8 (2) Any communication made by a corporation, organization or  
9 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
10 administrative personnel, or their families;

11 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by  
12 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,

13 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
14 families;

15 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering  
16 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate  
17 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for  
18 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the  
19 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made  
20 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to  
21 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is  
22 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such  
23 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation  
24 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be  
25 performed in the future;

26 (5) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of  
27 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by  
28 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or  
29 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a  
30 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
31 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room  
32 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative  
33 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
34 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed four hundred  
35 dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed eight  
36 hundred dollars for any such event hosted by two or more individuals,  
37 provided at least one such individual owns or resides at the residential  
38 premises, and further provided the cumulative value of the invitations,  
39 food or beverages provided by an individual on behalf of any such  
40 candidate or committee does not exceed eight hundred dollars with  
41 respect to a calendar year or single election, as the case may be;

42 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use by a party, political, slate or  
43 candidate committee, including those for a participating or  
44 nonparticipating candidate, at a discount, if the charge is not less than  
45 the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative value of the

46 discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate committee does  
47 not exceed four hundred dollars with respect to any single primary or  
48 election, or to or on behalf of any party, political or slate committee, does  
49 not exceed six hundred dollars in a calendar year;

50 (7) The display of a lawn sign by a human being or on real property;

51 (8) The payment, by a party committee or slate committee of the costs  
52 of preparation, display, mailing or other distribution incurred by the  
53 committee or individual with respect to any printed slate card, sample  
54 ballot or other printed list containing the names of three or more  
55 candidates;

56 (9) The donation of any item of personal property by an individual to  
57 a committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, or  
58 the purchase by an individual of any such item at such an affair, to the  
59 extent that the cumulative value donated or purchased does not exceed  
60 one hundred dollars;

61 (10) (A) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
62 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair sponsored by the  
63 candidate committee of a candidate for an office of a municipality,  
64 provided the cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two  
65 hundred fifty dollars from any single such candidate or the candidate's  
66 committee with respect to any single election campaign if the purchaser  
67 is a business entity or fifty dollars for purchases by any other person;

68 (B) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
69 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a fund-  
70 raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political committee,  
71 other than an exploratory committee, provided the cumulative purchase  
72 of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars from any single  
73 party committee or a political committee, other than an exploratory  
74 committee, in any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity or  
75 fifty dollars for purchases by any other person. Notwithstanding the  
76 provisions of this subparagraph, the following may not purchase  
77 advertising space in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a

78 fund-raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political  
79 committee, other than an exploratory committee: (i) A communicator  
80 lobbyist, (ii) a member of the immediate family of a communicator  
81 lobbyist, (iii) a state contractor, (iv) a prospective state contractor, or (v)  
82 a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor. As used  
83 in this subparagraph, "state contractor", "prospective state contractor"  
84 and "principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" have  
85 the same meanings as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-612;

86 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to the candidate's  
87 candidate committee, provided the committee is for a nonparticipating  
88 candidate;

89 (12) The donation of goods or services by a business entity to a  
90 committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, to  
91 the extent that the cumulative value donated does not exceed two  
92 hundred dollars;

93 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a telephone  
94 company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications service for  
95 a committee or to another utility company, such as an electric  
96 distribution company, provided the security deposit is refunded to the  
97 individual;

98 (14) The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial  
99 support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television  
100 company, as defined in section 16-1, for community access  
101 programming pursuant to section 16-331a, unless (A) the major purpose  
102 of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to influence  
103 the nomination or election of a candidate, or (B) such facilities,  
104 equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a political party;

105 (15) The sale of food or beverage by a town committee to an  
106 individual at a town fair, county fair, local festival or similar mass  
107 gathering held within the state, to the extent that the cumulative  
108 payment made by any one individual for such items does not exceed  
109 fifty dollars;

110 (16) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative  
111 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

112 (17) The donation of food or beverage by an individual for  
113 consumption at a slate, candidate, political committee or party  
114 committee meeting, event or activity that is not a fund-raising affair to  
115 the extent that the cumulative value of the food or beverages donated  
116 by an individual for a single meeting or event does not exceed fifty  
117 dollars;

118 (18) The value associated with the de minimis activity on behalf of a  
119 party committee, political committee, slate committee or candidate  
120 committee, including for activities including, but not limited to, (A) the  
121 creation of electronic or written communications or digital photos or  
122 video as part of an electronic file created on a voluntary basis without  
123 compensation, including, but not limited to, the creation and ongoing  
124 content development and delivery of social media on the Internet or  
125 telephone, including, but not limited to, the sending or receiving of  
126 electronic mail or messages, (B) the posting or display of a candidate's  
127 name or group of candidates' names at a town fair, county fair, local  
128 festival or similar mass gathering by a party committee, (C) the use of  
129 personal property or a service that is customarily attendant to the  
130 occupancy of a residential dwelling, or the donation of an item or items  
131 of personal property that are customarily used for campaign purposes,  
132 by an individual, to a candidate committee, provided the cumulative  
133 fair market value of such use of personal property or service or items of  
134 personal property does not exceed one hundred dollars in the aggregate  
135 for any single election or calendar year, as the case may be;

136 (19) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment  
137 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
138 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are  
139 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
140 legislative leadership committee;

141 (20) A communication, as described in subdivision (7) of subsection

142 (b) of section 9-601b;

143 (21) An independent expenditure, as defined in section 9-601c;

144 (22) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a  
145 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,  
146 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
147 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,  
148 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
149 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney  
150 General, state senator or state representative, provided the candidate  
151 (A) making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the  
152 communication, and (B) being endorsed paid for such communication;

153 (23) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district  
154 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to  
155 this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to the office of state  
156 senator or state representative, containing an endorsement on behalf of  
157 such candidate for such nomination or election from a candidate for the  
158 office of state senator or state representative, provided the candidate (A)  
159 making the endorsement is not seeking election to the office of state  
160 senator or state representative for a district that contains any  
161 geographical area shared by the district for the office to which the  
162 endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election, and (B) being  
163 endorsed paid for such communication; [or]

164 (24) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a  
165 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the  
166 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six  
167 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year; or

168 (25) With respect to an online platform that collects any contribution  
169 from a contributor and transmits such contribution to a committee, a  
170 voluntary payment made by such contributor to such online platform,  
171 which is (A) in addition to such contribution, and (B) used by such  
172 online platform to improve its operations.

173 Sec. 2. Section 9-622 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

177 (1) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or by another  
178 person, gives or offers or promises to any person any money, gift,  
179 advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other  
180 valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person to  
181 sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote or refrain  
182 from voting for or against any person or for or against any measure at  
183 any election, caucus, convention, primary or referendum;

184 (2) Any person who, directly or indirectly, receives, accepts, requests  
185 or solicits from any person, committee, association, organization or  
186 corporation, any money, gift, advantage, preferment, aid, emolument or  
187 other valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any  
188 person to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote  
189 or refrain from voting for or against any person or for or against any  
190 measure at any such election, caucus, primary or referendum;

191 (3) Any person who, in consideration of any money, gift, advantage,  
192 preferment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing paid, received,  
193 accepted or promised to the person's advantage or any other person's  
194 advantage, votes or refrains from voting for or against any person or for  
195 or against any measure at any such election, caucus, primary or  
196 referendum;

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

202 (5) Any person who, directly or indirectly, pays, gives, contributes or  
203 promises any money or other valuable thing to defray or towards

204 defraying the cost or expenses of any campaign, primary, referendum  
205 or election to any person, committee, company, club, organization or  
206 association, other than to a treasurer, except that this subdivision shall  
207 not apply to (A) any expenses for postage, telegrams, telephoning,  
208 stationery, express charges, traveling, meals, lodging or photocopying  
209 incurred by any candidate for office or for nomination to office, so far as  
210 may be permitted under the provisions of this chapter, or (B) with  
211 respect to an online platform that collects any contribution from a  
212 contributor and transmits such contribution to a committee, a voluntary  
213 payment made by such contributor to such online platform, which is (i)  
214 in addition to such contribution, and (ii) used by such online platform  
215 to improve its operations;

216 (6) Any person who, in order to secure or promote the person's own  
217 nomination or election as a candidate, or that of any other person,  
218 directly or indirectly, promises to appoint, or promises to secure or  
219 assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of any other  
220 person to any public position, or to any position of honor, trust or  
221 emolument; but any person may publicly announce the person's own  
222 choice or purpose in relation to any appointment, nomination or  
223 election in which the person may be called to take part, if the person is  
224 nominated for or elected to such office;

225 (7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through  
226 another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a treasurer  
227 in a name other than the person's own, and any treasurer who  
228 knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or  
229 causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name  
230 than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment  
231 is made;

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

234 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess of  
235 one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any political



236 party, candidate or referendum question;

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

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

242 (12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf  
243 of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal  
244 office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an  
245 individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or  
246 a dependent child of such individual;

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

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

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

257 (16) Any chief of staff for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor who  
258 solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for  
259 state, district or municipal office from a member of the staff of the  
260 Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or from any commissioner or deputy  
261 commissioner of any state agency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601a(b)

---

Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-622
--------	---------------------	-------

**Statement of Purpose:**

To exclude certain voluntary payments given by contributors to online political donation platforms from (1) the definition of "contribution", and (2) the provisions regarding illegal campaign finance practices.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*