
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5466

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH ELECTIONS-RELATED CRIMES MAY BE PROSECUTED.

SUMMARY

By law, the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) receives complaints from the secretary of the state, registrars of voters, town clerks, and individuals under oath about alleged election law violations. The commission investigates and holds hearings as it deems appropriate and may refer to the chief state's attorney any evidence of a violation for possible prosecution.

This bill, in certain circumstances, extends the time period during which an alleged election law violation referred from SEEC may be prosecuted. Specifically, it allows prosecution during the (1) existing statute of limitations period or (2) six months from when SEEC referred the complaint to the chief state's attorney, whichever period ends later.

The statute of limitations varies based on the offense committed. With certain exceptions, prosecutors may begin a prosecution within (1) five years after the crime was committed for felonies and (2) one year after the crime was committed for misdemeanors (CGS § 54-193).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, and applicable to (1) offenses committed on or after that date, (2) offenses committed before that date for which the statute of limitations in effect at the time of the offense had not yet expired as of October 1, 2024, or (3) any offense SEEC referred to the chief state's attorney on or after April 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5498 (§ 30), favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, requires certain complaints

filed with SEEC on or after July 1, 2024, to be referred to the chief state's attorney for further enforcement action.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/28/2024)