



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 647

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7205

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CAMPAIGNS IN CERTAIN DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE 2027 MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "distressed
2 municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 32-9p of the
3 general statutes, and "population" means the estimated number of
4 people according to the most recent version of the State Register and
5 Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-192a of the general
7 statutes, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall establish a
8 pilot program for the public financing of campaigns of candidates for
9 the municipal office of chief executive officer, who agree to limit
10 campaign fund raising and expenditures, at the 2027 municipal election
11 in each distressed municipality with a population of less than twenty-

12 five thousand. Public financing under such pilot program shall not be
13 deemed to be public funds for the purposes of subsection (d) of section
14 9-610 of the general statutes. A candidate for the municipal office of chief
15 executive officer who decides not to participate in such program shall
16 be subject to the provisions of chapter 155 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Cost	306,894	296,894
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	120,866	120,866
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), to implement a pilot program for the 2027 municipal election of chief executive officers in qualifying distressed municipalities resulting in the costs outlined below.

The bill requires SEEC to implement this program in qualifying municipalities² for the 2027 municipal elections resulting in a cost to SEEC of four³ durational positions and \$306,894 in FY 26 and a cost of

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

² There are thirteen municipalities that would currently qualify for the pilot program.

³ The positions include an Elections Officer, a Staff Attorney I, a Fiscal Administrative Officer, and a Secretary I.

\$296,894 in FY 27 with an associated fringe cost of \$120,866 in FY 26 and FY 27. These positions are necessary to ensure SEEC can develop, implement, and oversee a pilot program for each participating municipality. There are additional potential costs depending on the number of participating municipalities, to the extent that additional staff would be necessary to meet oversight obligations.

There is a potential cost to participating municipalities to provide funding for grants, establish an oversight board, and develop criterion for each towns program⁴. The exact cost will vary by municipality depending on participation, the structure of the program, and the number and amount of grants issued⁵.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would conclude in FY 27 unless extended at that time.

⁴ SEEC has previously conducted a [municipal campaign finance pilot program](#) in 2007 in New Haven. The establishment of a board, oversight and funding for grants was the responsibility of the municipality during the previous pilot program.

⁵ [The New Haven Democracy Fund](#), established through the initial pilot program, expended \$183,000 in 2023 including \$150,000 in grants.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7205

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2025)