



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7246

January Session, 2025



AN ACT CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AUTHORITY.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (25) and (26) of section 9-601 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (25) "Organization expenditure" means an expenditure by a party
5 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
6 committee for the benefit of a candidate or candidate committee for:

7 (A) The preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a
8 party candidate listing, including the electronic sharing, posting or
9 forwarding of content created by a candidate committee or other
10 committee on behalf of a candidate, the use of a personal electronic mail
11 list or an existing electronic mail account for such purposes and other
12 similar de minimis activity that may or may not be related to
13 fundraising. As used in this subparagraph, "party candidate listing"
14 means any communication that meets the following criteria: (i) The
15 communication lists the name or names of candidates for election to
16 public office, (ii) the communication is distributed through public
17 advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers or

18 similar media, or through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail,
19 publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery, and (iii) the
20 communication is made to promote the success or defeat of any
21 candidate or slate of candidates seeking the nomination for election, or
22 election or for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat
23 of any referendum question or the success or defeat of any political
24 party, provided such communication is not a solicitation for or on behalf
25 of a candidate committee;

26 (B) A document in printed or electronic form, including a party
27 platform, an electronic page providing merchant account services to be
28 used by a candidate for the collection of on-line contributions, a copy of
29 an issue paper, information pertaining to the requirements of this title,
30 a list of registered voters and voter identification information, which
31 document is created or maintained by a party committee, legislative
32 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee for the general
33 purposes of party or caucus building and is provided (i) to a candidate
34 who is a member of the party that has established such party committee,
35 or (ii) to a candidate who is a member of the party of the caucus or leader
36 who has established such legislative caucus committee or legislative
37 leadership committee, whichever is applicable;

38 (C) A campaign event at which campaign materials are present and
39 food or beverage may be provided, but at which no contribution shall
40 be received, solicited or bundled; or

41 (D) The retention of the services of an advisor or individual to
42 provide assistance relating to a candidate's campaign.

43 (26) "Solicit" means (A) requesting that a contribution be made, (B)
44 participating in any fundraising activities for a candidate committee,
45 exploratory committee, political committee or party committee,
46 including, but not limited to, forwarding tickets to potential
47 contributors, receiving contributions for transmission to any such
48 committee, serving on the committee that is hosting a fundraising event,
49 introducing the candidate or making other public remarks at a

50 fundraising event, being honored or otherwise recognized at a
51 fundraising event, or bundling contributions, (C) serving as
52 chairperson, treasurer or deputy treasurer of any such committee, or (D)
53 establishing a political committee for the sole purpose of soliciting or
54 receiving contributions for any committee. "Solicit" does not include (i)
55 making a contribution that is otherwise permitted under this chapter,
56 (ii) informing any person of a position taken by a candidate for public
57 office or a public official, (iii) notifying the person of any activities of, or
58 contact information for, any candidate for public office, (iv) serving as a
59 member in any party committee or as an officer of such committee that
60 is not otherwise prohibited in this subdivision, [or] (v) mere attendance
61 at a [fundraiser] fundraising event, or (vi) electronically sharing a link
62 to a fundraising Internet web site or an invitation to a fundraising event,
63 if shared by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or
64 legislative leadership committee.

65 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-621 of the general
66 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
67 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

68 (a) No individual shall make or incur any expenditure with the
69 consent of, in coordination with or in consultation with any candidate,
70 candidate committee or candidate's agent, no group of two or more
71 individuals acting together that receives funds or makes or incurs
72 expenditures not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and
73 has not formed a political committee shall make or incur any
74 expenditure, and no candidate or committee shall make or incur any
75 expenditure including an organization expenditure for a party
76 candidate listing, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of
77 section 9-601, as amended by this act, for any written, typed or other
78 printed communication, [or] any web-based, written communication or
79 any text message communication, which promotes the success or defeat
80 of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or
81 promotes or opposes any political party or solicits funds to benefit any
82 political party or committee unless such communication bears upon its
83 face as a disclaimer (1) the words "paid for by" and the following: (A) In

84 the case of such an individual, the name and address of such individual;
85 (B) [in the case of a committee other than a party committee, the name
86 of the committee and its treasurer; (C)] in the case of a [party] committee,
87 the name of the committee; or [(D)] (C) in the case of a group of two or
88 more individuals that receives funds or makes or incurs expenditures
89 not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and has not formed
90 a political committee, the name of the group and the name and address
91 of its agent, and (2) the words "approved by" and the following: (A) In
92 the case of an individual, group or committee other than a candidate
93 committee making or incurring an expenditure with the consent of, in
94 coordination with or in consultation with any candidate, candidate
95 committee or candidate's agent, the name of the candidate; or (B) in the
96 case of a candidate committee, the name of the candidate. For any text
97 message communication, the appearance of such a disclaimer in an
98 initial text message or the display of a link within the body of such
99 message to an Internet web site where such a disclaimer appears shall
100 be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

101 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section:

102 (1) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee
103 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for
104 television advertising or Internet video advertising, which promotes the
105 success of such candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or
106 election or the defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at
107 a primary or election, unless, as a disclaimer, (A) [at the end of] during
108 such advertising there appears simultaneously, for a period of not less
109 than four seconds, (i) a clearly identifiable photographic or similar
110 image of the candidate making such expenditure, and (ii) a clearly
111 readable printed statement identifying such candidate [,] and indicating
112 that such candidate has approved the advertising, [and (iii) a
113 simultaneous, personal audio message, in the following form: "I am
114 (candidate's name) and I approved this message",] and (B) the
115 candidate's name and image appear in [, and the candidate's voice is
116 contained in,] the narrative of the advertising, before the end of such
117 advertising;

118 (2) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee
119 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for radio
120 advertising or Internet audio advertising, which promotes the success
121 of such candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or
122 the defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary
123 or election, unless, as a disclaimer, (A) the advertising ends with a
124 personal audio statement by the candidate making such expenditure (i)
125 identifying such candidate and the office such candidate is seeking, and
126 (ii) indicating that such candidate has approved the advertising in the
127 following form: "I am (candidate's name) and I approved this
128 message", and (B) the candidate's name and voice are contained in the
129 narrative of the advertising, before the end of such advertising; and

130 (3) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee
131 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for
132 automated telephone calls which promote the success of such
133 candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or the
134 defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or
135 election, unless the candidate's name and voice are contained in the
136 narrative of the call, before the end of such call.

137 (c) No business entity, organization, association, committee, or group
138 of two or more individuals who have joined solely to promote the
139 success or defeat of a referendum question shall make or incur any
140 expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication
141 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless
142 such communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words
143 "paid for by" and the following: (1) In the case of a business entity,
144 organization or association, the name of the business entity,
145 organization or association and the name of its chief executive officer or
146 equivalent, and in the case such communication is made during the
147 ninety-day period immediately prior to the referendum, such
148 communication shall also bear on its face the names of the five persons
149 who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to such business
150 entity, organization or association during the twelve-month period
151 immediately prior to such referendum. The communication shall also

152 state that additional information about the business entity, organization
153 or association making such communication may be found on the State
154 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site; (2) [in the case
155 of a political committee, the name of the committee and the name of its
156 treasurer; (3)] in the case of a political committee or a party committee,
157 the name of the committee; or [(4)] (3) in the case of such a group of two
158 or more individuals, the name of the group and the name and address
159 of its agent.

160 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
162 *2025*):

163 (h) (1) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for
164 any written, typed or other printed communication, including on a
165 billboard, or any web-based, written communication, unless such
166 communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words "Paid for
167 by" and the name of such person and the following statement: "This
168 message was made independent of any candidate or political party.". In
169 the case of a person making or incurring such an independent
170 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the
171 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,
172 such communication shall also bear upon its face the names of the five
173 persons who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the
174 person making such communication during the twelve-month period
175 immediately prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The
176 communication shall also state that additional information about the
177 person making such communication may be found on the State
178 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site.

179 (2) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
180 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure
181 for a video broadcast by television, satellite or Internet, unless at the end
182 of such advertising there appears for a period of not less than four
183 seconds as a disclaimer, the following as [an audio message and] a
184 written statement: "This message was paid for by (person making the

185 communication) and made independent of any candidate or political
186 party.". In the case of a person making or incurring such an independent
187 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the
188 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,
189 such communication shall also list the names of the five persons who
190 made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the person making
191 such communication during the twelve-month period immediately
192 prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The communication
193 shall also state that additional information about the person making
194 such communication may be found on the State Elections Enforcement
195 Commission's Internet web site.

196 (3) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
197 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure
198 for an audio communication broadcast by radio, satellite or Internet,
199 unless the advertising ends with a disclaimer that is a personal audio
200 statement by such person's agent (A) identifying the person paying for
201 the expenditure, and (B) indicating that the message was made
202 independent of any candidate or political party, using the following
203 form: "I am (name of the person's agent), (title), of (the person).
204 This message was made independent of any candidate or political
205 party.". In the case of a person making or incurring such an independent
206 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the
207 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,
208 such communication shall state the names of the five persons who made
209 the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the person making such
210 communication during the twelve-month period immediately prior to
211 such primary or election, as applicable. The communication shall also
212 state that additional information about the person making such
213 communication may be found on the State Elections Enforcement
214 Commission's Internet web site.

215 (4) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
216 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure
217 for telephone calls, unless the narrative of the telephone call identifies
218 the person making the expenditure and during the ninety-day period

219 immediately prior to the primary or election for which the independent
220 expenditure is made, such communication shall state the names of the
221 five persons who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to
222 the person making such communication during the twelve-month
223 period immediately prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The
224 communication shall also state that additional information about the
225 person making such communication may be found on the State
226 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site.

227 Sec. 4. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section
228 9-7b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
229 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

230 (B) When conducting an audit after an election or primary, the
231 commission shall randomly audit not more than [fifty] thirty per cent of
232 candidate committees, which shall be selected through the process of a
233 weighted lottery conducted by the commission that takes into account
234 the selection frequency of a district served by the office of state senator
235 or state representative, as applicable, for the immediately preceding
236 three regular elections for such office and increases or decreases the
237 likelihood that such district will be selected for audit based on such
238 selection frequency, except that the commissioner shall audit all
239 candidate committees for candidates for a state-wide office.

240 Sec. 5. Subdivision (14) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the general
241 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
242 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

243 (14) To (A) adopt and publish regulations and issue declaratory
244 rulings pursuant to chapter 54 to carry out the provisions of section 9-
245 7a, as amended by this act, this section, and chapters 155 and 157, [; to]
246 (B) issue upon request and publish advisory opinions in the Connecticut
247 Law Journal upon the requirements of chapters 155 and 157, (C) subject
248 to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, issue and publish
249 guidance documents relating to the requirements of chapters 155 and
250 157, and [to] (D) make recommendations to the General Assembly

251 concerning suggested revisions of the election laws, except that the
252 commission shall not issue any declaratory ruling or advisory opinion
253 relating to the provisions of chapter 157 during the one-hundred-eighty-
254 day period immediately preceding a state election, provided nothing in
255 this subdivision shall be construed to limit the commission's ability
256 during such period to provide general guidance and clarification
257 relating to the provisions of said chapter;

258 Sec. 6. Section 9-7b of the general statutes is amended by adding
259 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

260 (NEW) (c) On and after July 1, 2025, prior to the issuance and
261 publication of any new guidance document relating to the requirements
262 of chapters 155 and 157, or the revision of any such existing guidance
263 document, the commission shall submit such guidance document to the
264 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
265 matters relating to elections, which shall hold a public hearing on such
266 guidance document within thirty days after the date of submittal to such
267 committee. The commission shall include with the guidance document
268 a summary of the changes in the law the commission is proposing to
269 clarify through such guidance document. Such committee may reject
270 such guidance document by a majority vote. If such committee fails to
271 vote to approve or reject such guidance document within thirty days
272 after the date of submittal to such committee, such guidance document
273 shall be deemed approved and the commission may issue and publish
274 such guidance document.

275 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 9-704 of the general statutes is
276 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
277 *2025*):

278 (e) (1) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying
279 contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall be returned
280 to the contributor by the treasurer of the candidate committee [to the
281 contributor or transmitted to] or by the State Elections Enforcement
282 Commission [for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund] in accordance

283 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-706,
284 as amended by this act:

285 [(1)] (A) A contribution from a principal of a state contractor or
286 prospective state contractor;

287 [(2)] (B) A contribution of less than five dollars; [, and a contribution
288 of five dollars or more from an individual who does not provide the full
289 name and complete address of the individual;]

290 [(3)] (C) A contribution under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a)
291 of this section from an individual who does not reside in the state, in
292 excess of the applicable limit on contributions from out-of-state
293 individuals in subsection (a) of this section; and

294 [(4)] (D) A contribution made by a youth who is less than twelve years
295 of age.

296 (2) A contribution of five dollars or more from an individual who
297 does not provide the full name and complete address of such individual
298 shall not be deemed to be a qualifying contribution under subsection (a)
299 of this section and shall be returned to the contributor by the treasurer
300 of the candidate committee, if practicable, or transmitted to the State
301 Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election
302 Fund.

303 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-706 of the general
304 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
305 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

306 (b) The application shall include a written certification that:

307 (1) The candidate committee has received the required amount of
308 qualifying contributions;

309 (2) The candidate committee has repaid all moneys borrowed on
310 behalf of the campaign, as required by subsection (b) of section 9-710;

311 (3) The candidate committee has returned, whenever practicable, any
312 contribution of five dollars or more from an individual who does not
313 include the individual's name and address with the contribution;

314 (4) The candidate committee has [returned] taken reasonable efforts
315 to return all contributions or portions of contributions that do not meet
316 the criteria for qualifying contributions under section 9-704, as amended
317 by this act, and has transmitted all excess qualifying contributions to the
318 Citizens' Election Fund;

319 (5) The treasurer of the candidate committee will: (A) Comply with
320 the provisions of chapter 155 and this chapter, and (B) maintain and
321 furnish all records required pursuant to chapter 155 and this chapter
322 and any regulation adopted pursuant to such chapters;

323 (6) All moneys received from the Citizens' Election Fund will be
324 deposited upon receipt into the depository account of the candidate
325 committee;

326 (7) The treasurer of the candidate committee will expend all moneys
327 received from the fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection
328 (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by the State Elections
329 Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of this section;

330 (8) If the candidate withdraws from the campaign, becomes ineligible
331 or dies during the campaign, the candidate committee of the candidate
332 will return to the commission, for deposit in the fund, all moneys
333 received from the fund pursuant to sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive,
334 which said candidate committee has not spent as of the date of such
335 occurrence;

336 (9) All outstanding civil penalties or forfeitures assessed pursuant to
337 chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, against the current or any former
338 committee of the candidate have been paid, provided (A) in the case of
339 any candidate seeking nomination for or election to the office of
340 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
341 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, any such penalty or forfeiture

342 was assessed not later than twenty-four months prior to the submission
343 of an application pursuant to this section; or (B) in the case of any
344 candidate seeking nomination for or election to the office of state senator
345 or state representative, any such penalty or forfeiture was assessed not
346 later than twelve months prior to the submission of an application
347 pursuant to this section;

348 (10) The treasurer has paid any civil penalties or forfeitures assessed
349 pursuant to chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, and has not been convicted
350 of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of competent
351 jurisdiction, any (A) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,
352 embezzlement or bribery, or (B) criminal offense under this title, unless
353 at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the conviction or plea
354 or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is later, without a
355 subsequent conviction of or plea to another such felony or offense;

356 (11) The candidate has not been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo
357 contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, a criminal offense
358 under this title unless at least eight years have elapsed from the date of
359 the conviction or plea or the completion of any sentence, whichever date
360 is later, without a subsequent conviction of or plea to another such
361 offense; and

362 (12) The candidate has never been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo
363 contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, a felony related to
364 the individual's public office, other than a criminal offense under this
365 title in accordance with subdivision (11) of this subsection.

366 (c) The application shall be accompanied by a cumulative itemized
367 accounting of all funds received, expenditures made and expenses
368 incurred but not yet paid by the candidate committee as of three days
369 preceding the day the application is filed. Such accounting shall be
370 sworn to under penalty of false statement by the treasurer of the
371 candidate committee. The commission shall prescribe the form of the
372 application and the cumulative itemized accounting. The form for such
373 accounting shall conform to the requirements of section 9-608. Both the

374 candidate and the treasurer of the candidate committee shall sign the
375 application.

376 (d) (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this
377 section, the commission shall review the application [,] and determine
378 whether [(1)] (A) the candidate committee for the applicant has received
379 the required qualifying contributions, [(2)] (B) in the case of an
380 application for a grant from the fund for a convention campaign, the
381 applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this
382 section for applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of
383 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, [(3)] (C) in the case of an
384 application for a grant from the fund for a primary campaign, the
385 applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this
386 section for applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of
387 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, [(4)] (D) in the case of an
388 application for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign,
389 the applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of
390 this section for applying for such grant and complied with the
391 provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, and [(5)] (E) in the
392 case of an application by a minor party or petitioning party candidate
393 for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign, the applicant
394 qualifies as an eligible minor party candidate or an eligible petitioning
395 party candidate, whichever is applicable.

396 (2) During such review of the application:

397 (A) If the commission deems a contribution received by the candidate
398 committee not to be a qualifying contribution, the commission shall
399 advise the treasurer of the candidate committee of such determination
400 and cite the applicable reason under subsection (e) of section 9-704, as
401 amended by this act, for such determination and shall return the
402 contribution to the contributor based on the information provided on
403 the applicable contribution certification form;

404 (B) There shall be a presumption that information provided on a
405 contribution certification form is true and correct, which presumption

406 may only be rebutted by proof otherwise based on a prior investigative
407 finding of the commission; and

408 (C) The commission shall not disqualify any contribution from being
409 counted as a qualifying contribution for reason that (i) the residential
410 address associated with such contribution does not match the billing
411 address associated with such contribution, or (ii) such contribution was
412 made in response to an electronically shared link to a fundraising
413 Internet web site or invitation to a fundraising event.

414 (3) If the commission approves an application, the commission shall
415 determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate committee
416 for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705 from the fund, and notify the
417 State Comptroller and the candidate of such candidate committee of
418 such amount. In so notifying the State Comptroller, the commission
419 shall (A) ensure that the qualified candidate committee of an applicant
420 is entitled to a full grant for the general election campaign only if (i) the
421 applicant's written certification under subsection (b) of this section
422 affirms that such committee received the required qualifying
423 contributions under section 9-704, as amended by this act, prior to the
424 seventieth day before the election, and (ii) the cumulative itemized
425 accounting under subsection (c) of this section demonstrates that the
426 applicant reasonably believes such written certification to be true and
427 correct, and (B) advise the State Comptroller accordingly. If the timing
428 of the commission's approval of the grant for a primary campaign or
429 general election campaign in relation to the Secretary of the State's
430 determination of ballot status is such that the commission cannot
431 determine whether the qualified candidate committee is entitled to the
432 applicable full initial grant for the primary or election or the applicable
433 partial grant for the primary or election, as the case may be, the
434 commission shall approve the lesser applicable partial initial grant. The
435 commission shall then authorize the payment of the remaining portion
436 of the applicable primary campaign or general election campaign grant
437 after the commission has knowledge of the circumstances regarding the
438 ballot status of the opposing candidates in such primary or election. Not
439 later than thirty days following notification by the commission in the

440 case of a convention campaign grant, or not later than two business days
441 following notification by the commission in the case of any other grant,
442 the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the State Treasurer for
443 payment of any such approved amount to the qualified candidate
444 committee from the fund.

445 Sec. 9. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-7a of the general
446 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
447 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

448 (b) (1) A vacancy in the commission shall not impair the right of the
449 remaining members to exercise all the powers of the commission, and
450 three members of said commission shall constitute a quorum.

451 (2) All meetings of the commission, noticed in accordance with the
452 provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-
453 200, shall be broadcast contemporaneously and continuously on an
454 Internet web site identified in such notice. Such Internet web site shall
455 not require that any member of the public (A) create an account to access
456 such Internet web site, or (B) affirmatively reconnect to such broadcast
457 after an interruption due to the commission holding an executive
458 session. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the
459 broadcast of any portion of a meeting during which the commission is
460 holding an executive session.

461 (c) The commission shall at the close of each fiscal year report to the
462 General Assembly and the Governor concerning the action it has taken
463 including, but not limited to a list of all complaints investigated by the
464 commission and the disposition of each such complaint, by voting
465 districts, where the alleged violation occurred; the names, salaries and
466 duties of the individuals in its employ and the money it has disbursed;
467 and shall make such further reports on the matters within its jurisdiction
468 and such recommendations for further legislation as may appear
469 desirable.

470 (d) ~~[The]~~ (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
471 the commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, employ

472 such employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
473 section, section 9-7b, as amended by this act, and section 9-623,
474 including an executive director, and may apply to the Commissioner of
475 Emergency Services and Public Protection or to the Chief State's
476 Attorney for necessary investigatory personnel, which the same are
477 hereby authorized to provide.

478 (2) (A) On or before April 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the
479 commission shall, with the advice and consent of either house of the
480 General Assembly, appoint an executive director in the manner
481 prescribed in this subdivision, to serve at the pleasure of the commission
482 but not longer than four years after such appointment, unless
483 reappointed under the provisions of this subdivision.

484 (B) On or before February 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the
485 commission shall submit a nomination for executive director to either
486 house of the General Assembly. Such house shall immediately refer the
487 nomination to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
488 having cognizance of matters relating to elections, which shall report
489 thereon by resolution within thirty calendar days from the date of
490 reference. Except as provided in this subparagraph, such house, by
491 resolution, shall confirm or reject the nomination. If confirmed, the
492 nominee shall take office on the first day of April in the year in which
493 the appointment is submitted. If such house fails to confirm or reject
494 such nomination by the first day of April, such nomination shall be
495 deemed confirmed and the nominee shall immediately take office. If
496 such house rejects the nomination before the first day of April in the
497 year in which it is submitted, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph
498 (C) of this subdivision shall be followed.

499 (C) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the
500 General Assembly is in regular session, the commission shall, not later
501 than sixty days after the occurrence of the vacancy, submit its
502 nomination to fill the vacancy to either house of the General Assembly.
503 The house to which the nomination is submitted shall immediately refer
504 the nomination to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly

505 having cognizance of matters relating to elections, which shall report
506 thereon by resolution within thirty legislative days from the date of
507 reference. Except as provided in this subparagraph, such house shall
508 confirm or reject such nomination. If such house, by resolution, confirms
509 the nomination within sixty calendar days after it is submitted, the
510 nominee shall forthwith take office to serve at the pleasure of the
511 commission but not longer than the original appointee could have
512 served under his or her appointment. If such house fails to confirm or
513 reject such nomination within sixty calendar days after it is submitted,
514 such nomination shall be deemed confirmed and such nominee shall
515 forthwith take office to serve at the pleasure of the commission but not
516 longer than the original appointee could have served under his or her
517 appointment. If such house rejects the nomination within sixty calendar
518 days after it is submitted, the commission shall, within thirty calendar
519 days, submit another nomination to either house of the General
520 Assembly, provided, if any nomination is submitted less than sixty
521 calendar days before the date established by the Constitution for
522 adjournment of the General Assembly, and the house to which it is
523 submitted fails to confirm or reject the nomination before such
524 adjournment on said date, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph
525 (D) of this subdivision shall be followed.

526 (D) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the
527 General Assembly is not in regular session, it shall be filled by the
528 commission until the sixth Wednesday of the next session of the General
529 Assembly. At the beginning of the next regular session of the General
530 Assembly, the commission shall submit the name of the vacancy
531 appointee to either house of the General Assembly as said commission
532 elects and the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of this
533 subdivision shall be followed.

534 (E) No person who has been rejected by resolution of the house to
535 which his or her name has been submitted by the commission shall serve
536 in the office of executive director during the term of the house which
537 rejected him or her.

538 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes is
539 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
540 *passage*):

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

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

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

548 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by
549 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,
550 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their
551 families;

552 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering
553 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate
554 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for
555 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the
556 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made
557 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to
558 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is
559 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such
560 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation
561 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be
562 performed in the future;

563 (5) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of
564 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by
565 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or
566 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a
567 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal
568 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room

569 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative
570 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on
571 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed [~~four~~] five
572 hundred dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed
573 [~~eight hundred~~] one thousand dollars for any such event hosted by two
574 or more individuals, provided at least one such individual owns or
575 resides at the residential premises, and further provided the cumulative
576 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on
577 behalf of any such candidate or committee does not exceed [~~eight~~
578 hundred] one thousand dollars with respect to a calendar year or single
579 election, as the case may be;

580 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use by a party, political, slate or
581 candidate committee, including those for a participating or
582 nonparticipating candidate, at a discount, if the charge is not less than
583 the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative value of the
584 discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate committee does
585 not exceed four hundred dollars with respect to any single primary or
586 election, or to or on behalf of any party, political or slate committee, does
587 not exceed six hundred dollars in a calendar year;

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

589 (8) The payment, by a party committee or slate committee of the costs
590 of preparation, display, mailing or other distribution incurred by the
591 committee or individual with respect to any printed slate card, sample
592 ballot or other printed list containing the names of three or more
593 candidates;

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

599 (10) (A) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the
600 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair sponsored by the

601 candidate committee of a candidate for an office of a municipality,
602 provided the cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two
603 hundred fifty dollars from any single such candidate or the candidate's
604 committee with respect to any single election campaign if the purchaser
605 is a business entity or fifty dollars for purchases by any other person;

606 (B) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the
607 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a fund-
608 raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political committee,
609 other than an exploratory committee, provided the cumulative purchase
610 of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars from any single
611 party committee or a political committee, other than an exploratory
612 committee, in any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity or
613 fifty dollars for purchases by any other person. Notwithstanding the
614 provisions of this subparagraph, the following may not purchase
615 advertising space in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a
616 fund-raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political
617 committee, other than an exploratory committee: (i) A communicator
618 lobbyist, (ii) a member of the immediate family of a communicator
619 lobbyist, (iii) a state contractor, (iv) a prospective state contractor, or (v)
620 a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor. As used
621 in this subparagraph, "state contractor", "prospective state contractor"
622 and "principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" have
623 the same meanings as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-612;

624 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to the candidate's
625 candidate committee, provided the committee is for a nonparticipating
626 candidate;

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

631 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a telephone
632 company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications service for

633 a committee or to another utility company, such as an electric
634 distribution company, provided the security deposit is refunded to the
635 individual;

636 (14) The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial
637 support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television
638 company, as defined in section 16-1, for community access
639 programming pursuant to section 16-331a, unless (A) the major purpose
640 of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to influence
641 the nomination or election of a candidate, or (B) such facilities,
642 equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a political party;

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

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

650 (17) The donation of food or beverage by an individual for
651 consumption at a slate, candidate, political committee or party
652 committee meeting, event or activity that is not a fund-raising affair to
653 the extent that the cumulative value of the food or beverages donated
654 by an individual for a single meeting or event does not exceed fifty
655 dollars;

656 (18) The value associated with the de minimis activity on behalf of a
657 party committee, political committee, slate committee or candidate
658 committee, including for activities including, but not limited to, (A) the
659 creation of electronic or written communications or digital photos or
660 video as part of an electronic file created on a voluntary basis without
661 compensation, including, but not limited to, the creation and ongoing
662 content development and delivery of social media on the Internet or
663 telephone, including, but not limited to, the sending or receiving of
664 electronic mail or messages, (B) the posting or display of a candidate's

665 name or group of candidates' names at a town fair, county fair, local
666 festival or similar mass gathering by a party committee, (C) the use of
667 personal property or a service that is customarily attendant to the
668 occupancy of a residential dwelling, or the donation of an item or items
669 of personal property that are customarily used for campaign purposes,
670 by an individual, to a candidate committee, provided the cumulative
671 fair market value of such use of personal property or service or items of
672 personal property does not exceed one hundred dollars in the aggregate
673 for any single election or calendar year, as the case may be;

674 (19) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment
675 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or
676 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are
677 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or
678 legislative leadership committee;

679 (20) A communication, as described in subdivision (7) of subsection
680 (b) of section 9-601b, as amended by this act;

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

682 (22) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a
683 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,
684 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State
685 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,
686 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
687 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney
688 General, state senator or state representative, provided the candidate
689 (A) making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the
690 communication, and (B) being endorsed paid for such communication;

691 (23) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district
692 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to
693 this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to the office of state
694 senator or state representative, containing an endorsement on behalf of
695 such candidate for such nomination or election from a candidate for the
696 office of state senator or state representative, provided the candidate (A)

697 making the endorsement is not seeking election to the office of state
698 senator or state representative for a district that contains any
699 geographical area shared by the district for the office to which the
700 endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election, and (B) being
701 endorsed paid for such communication; or

702 (24) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a
703 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the
704 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six
705 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year.

706 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 9-601b of the general statutes is
707 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
708 *passage*):

709 (b) The term "expenditure" does not mean:

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

712 (2) A communication made by any corporation, organization or
713 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or
714 administrative personnel, or their families;

715 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by
716 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,
717 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their
718 families;

719 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering
720 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate
721 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for
722 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the
723 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made
724 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to
725 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is
726 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such

727 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation
728 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be
729 performed in the future;

730 (5) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the
731 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other
732 periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political
733 party, committee or candidate;

734 (6) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of
735 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by
736 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or
737 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a
738 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal
739 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room
740 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative
741 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on
742 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed [four] five
743 hundred dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed
744 [eight hundred] one thousand dollars for any such event hosted by two
745 or more individuals, provided at least one such individual owns or
746 resides at the residential premises, and further provided the cumulative
747 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on
748 behalf of any such candidate or committee does not exceed [eight
749 hundred] one thousand dollars with respect to a calendar year or single
750 election, as the case may be;

751 (7) A communication described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
752 this section that includes speech or expression made (A) prior to the
753 ninety-day period preceding the date of a primary or an election at
754 which the clearly identified candidate or candidates are seeking
755 nomination to public office or position, that is made for the purpose of
756 influencing any legislative or administrative action, as defined in section
757 1-91, or executive action, or (B) during a legislative session for the
758 purpose of influencing legislative action;

759 (8) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative
760 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

761 (9) A commercial advertisement that refers to an owner, director or
762 officer of a business entity who is also a candidate and that had
763 previously been broadcast or appeared when the owner, director or
764 officer was not a candidate;

765 (10) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a
766 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,
767 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State
768 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,
769 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
770 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney
771 General, state senator or state representative, shall not be an
772 expenditure attributable to the endorsing candidate, if the candidate
773 making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the
774 communication;

775 (11) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district
776 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to
777 the provisions of this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to
778 the office of state senator or state representative, containing an
779 endorsement on behalf of such candidate for such nomination or
780 election, from a candidate for the office of state senator or state
781 representative, shall not be an expenditure attributable to the endorsing
782 candidate, if the candidate making the endorsement is not seeking
783 election to the office of state senator or state representative for a district
784 that contains any geographical area shared by the district for the office
785 to which the endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election;

786 (12) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a
787 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the
788 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six
789 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year;

790 (13) A lawful communication by any charitable organization which is

791 a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
792 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
793 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended;

794 (14) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment
795 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or
796 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are
797 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or
798 legislative leadership committee; or

799 (15) An expense or expenses incurred by a human being acting alone
800 in an amount that is two hundred dollars or less, in the aggregate, that
801 benefits a candidate for a single election.

802 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Whenever a court of competent
803 jurisdiction orders any person to pay to a committee, as defined in
804 section 9-601 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, restitution
805 of moneys representing funds originally raised by such committee
806 through contributions, as defined in section 9-601a of the general
807 statutes, as amended by this act, and such person makes such payment
808 of restitution to such committee, such committee shall not be allowed to
809 spend all such restitution moneys immediately but rather shall only be
810 allowed to spend such restitution moneys over a period of time equal to
811 the period of time over which such committee originally raised such
812 funds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-601(25) and (26)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-621(a) to (c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-621(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-7b(a)(5)(B)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-7b(a)(14)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-7b(c)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-704(e)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-706(b) to (d)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-7a(b) to (d)

Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-601a(b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-601b(b)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*