



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2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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.*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*