



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1533

LCO No. 6599



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERAL CHANGES TO THE CITIZENS'
ELECTION PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (25) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

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. As used in this subparagraph, "party candidate
9 listing" means any communication that meets the following criteria: (i)
10 The communication lists the name or names of candidates for election
11 to public office, (ii) the communication is distributed through public
12 advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers or
13 similar media, or through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail,
14 publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery, and (iii) the

15 communication is made to promote the success or defeat of any
16 candidate or slate of candidates seeking the nomination for election, or
17 election or for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat
18 of any referendum question or the success or defeat of any political
19 party, provided such communication is not a solicitation for or on behalf
20 of a candidate committee;

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

33 (C) A campaign event at which (i) campaign materials are present
34 and food or beverage may be provided, but at which no contribution
35 shall be received, solicited or bundled, or (ii) a candidate or candidates
36 are present; or

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

39 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-704 of the general statutes
40 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
41 *1, 2025*):

42 (b) (1) (A) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant
43 Governor held in 2026, the aggregate contribution amounts in
44 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall
45 be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later

46 than July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change in the consumer price
47 index for all urban consumers as published by the United States
48 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period
49 beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2024.

50 [(b) (1)] (B) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant
51 Governor held in [2022] 2030, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution
52 amounts in subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of
53 this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections
54 Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, [2022] 2029, and
55 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the
56 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
57 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
58 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December
59 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to
60 be made.

61 (2) (A) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State
62 Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in 2026, the
63 aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
64 this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
65 Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change
66 in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
67 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
68 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31,
69 2024.

70 [(2)] (B) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State
71 Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in [2018] 2030,
72 and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of
73 subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
74 Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, [2018] 2029, and
75 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the
76 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
77 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during

78 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December
79 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to
80 be made.

81 (3) (A) [Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
82 for] For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
83 held in [2018, and thereafter] 2026, the aggregate contribution amounts
84 in subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,
85 as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
86 Commission not later than [January 15, 2018, and biennially thereafter]
87 July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
88 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
89 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
90 January 1, 2017, and ending on [December thirty-first in the year
91 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made] December
92 31, 2024.

93 (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
94 held in [2024] 2028, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts
95 in subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,
96 as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
97 Commission not later than January 15, [2024] 2027, and biennially
98 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
99 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
100 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
101 January 1, 2017, and ending on December [31, 2021] thirty-first in the
102 year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

103 (c) (1) (A) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant
104 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or
105 Secretary of the State held in 2026, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
106 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (1) or (2) of
107 subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State
108 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in
109 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban

110 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,
111 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1,
112 2017, and ending on December 31, 2024.

113 [(c) (1)] (B) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant
114 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or
115 Secretary of the State held in [2022] 2030, and thereafter, the two-
116 hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in
117 subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as
118 applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement
119 Commission not later than January 15, [2022] 2029, and quadrennially
120 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
121 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
122 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
123 January 1, 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year
124 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

125 (2) (A) For elections for the office of state senator or state
126 representative held in 2026, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum
127 individual contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection
128 (a) of this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections
129 Enforcement Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in accordance with
130 any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
131 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
132 Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending
133 on December 31, 2024.

134 [(2)] (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state
135 representative held in [2020] 2028, and thereafter, the two-hundred-
136 fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (3)
137 or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable,
138 shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not
139 later than January 15, [2020] 2027, and biennially thereafter, in
140 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
141 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,

142 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1,
143 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year preceding the year
144 in which said adjustment is to be made.

145 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is
146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
147 *1, 2028*):

148 (a) (1) (A) A participating major party candidate for nomination to
149 the office of Governor in [2026] 2030, or thereafter, may apply to the
150 State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund
151 under the Citizens' Election Program for a convention campaign,
152 beginning in January of the year preceding the election for said office
153 and after such candidate files the affidavit under section 9-703 certifying
154 such candidate's intent to abide by the expenditure limits under said
155 program.

156 (B) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state
157 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of
158 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
159 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply
160 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the
161 fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a primary campaign, after
162 the close of the state convention of the candidate's party that is called
163 for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for the office that
164 the candidate is seeking, if a primary is required under chapter 153, and
165 (i) said party endorses the candidate for the office that the candidate is
166 seeking, (ii) the candidate is seeking nomination to the office of
167 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
168 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state
169 senator or state representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the
170 votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call
171 vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate
172 for the office the candidate is seeking, or (iii) the candidate circulates a
173 petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a

174 candidacy for nomination for (I) the office of Governor, Lieutenant
175 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or
176 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state
177 representative, pursuant to section 9-400, or (II) the municipal office of
178 state senator or state representative, pursuant to section 9-406,
179 whichever is applicable.

180 (C) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make any
181 such grants to participating candidates in accordance with the
182 provisions of subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of this section.

183 (2) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state
184 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of
185 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or
186 State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections
187 Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens'
188 Election Program for a general election campaign:

189 (A) After the close of the state or district convention or municipal
190 caucus, convention or town committee meeting, whichever is
191 applicable, of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of
192 choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is
193 seeking, if (i) said party endorses said candidate for the office that the
194 candidate is seeking and no other candidate of said party files a
195 candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the
196 provisions of section 9-400 or 9-406, whichever is applicable, (ii) the
197 candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant
198 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or
199 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state
200 representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the
201 convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on
202 the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office
203 the candidate is seeking, no other candidate for said office at such
204 convention either receives the party endorsement or said percentage of
205 said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate of endorsement with

206 the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-
207 388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the
208 provisions of section 9-400, and no other candidate for said office
209 circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for
210 filing a candidacy for nomination for said office pursuant to section 9-
211 400, (iii) the candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor,
212 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State
213 Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator
214 or state representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required
215 number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for said
216 office pursuant to section 9-400 and no other candidate for said office at
217 the state or district convention either receives the party endorsement or
218 said percentage of said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate
219 of endorsement with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the
220 provisions of section 9-388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State
221 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, or (iv) the candidate
222 is seeking election to the municipal office of state senator or state
223 representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required number of
224 signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for the office the
225 candidate is seeking pursuant to section 9-406 and no other candidate
226 for said office at the caucus, convention or town committee meeting
227 either receives the party endorsement or files a certification of
228 endorsement with the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of
229 section 9-391;

230 (B) After any primary held by such party for nomination for said
231 office, if the Secretary of the State declares that the candidate is the party
232 nominee in accordance with the provisions of section 9-440;

233 (C) In the case of a minor party candidate, after the nomination of
234 such candidate is certified and filed with the Secretary of the State
235 pursuant to section 9-452; or

236 (D) In the case of a petitioning party candidate, after approval by the
237 Secretary of the State of such candidate's nominating petition pursuant

238 to section 9-453o.

239 (3) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state
240 senator or state representative at a special election in 2008, or thereafter,
241 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant
242 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a general
243 election campaign after the close of the district convention or municipal
244 caucus, convention or town committee meeting of the candidate's party
245 that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for
246 the office that the candidate is seeking.

247 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
248 subsection, no participating candidate for nomination or election who
249 changes the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or
250 petitioning party candidate or becomes a candidate of a different party,
251 after filing the [affidavit required under section 9-703] grant application
252 under this section, shall be eligible to [apply for a grant] receive
253 additional grant funds under the Citizens' Election Program for such
254 candidate's primary campaign for such nomination or general election
255 campaign for such election. The provisions of this subdivision shall not
256 apply in the case of a candidate who is nominated by more than one
257 party and does not otherwise change the candidate's status as a major
258 party, minor party or petitioning party candidate.

259 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, no candidate
260 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant
261 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program if such candidate
262 has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of
263 competent jurisdiction, any (A) criminal offense under this title unless
264 at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the conviction or plea
265 or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is later, without a
266 subsequent conviction of or plea to another such offense, or (B) a felony
267 related to the individual's public office, other than an offense under this
268 title in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

269 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is
270 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
271 *passage*):

272 (d) (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this
273 section, the commission shall review the application, determine whether
274 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) the candidate committee for the applicant has received the
275 required qualifying contributions, ~~[(2)]~~ (B) in the case of an application
276 for a grant from the fund for a convention campaign, the applicant has
277 met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for
278 applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections
279 (b) and (c) of this section, ~~[(3)]~~ (C) in the case of an application for a grant
280 from the fund for a primary campaign, the applicant has met the
281 applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for
282 such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)
283 of this section, ~~[(4)]~~ (D) in the case of an application for a grant from the
284 fund for a general election campaign, the applicant has met the
285 applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for
286 such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)
287 of this section, and ~~[(5)]~~ (E) in the case of an application by a minor party
288 or petitioning party candidate for a grant from the fund for a general
289 election campaign, the applicant qualifies as an eligible minor party
290 candidate or an eligible petitioning party candidate, whichever is
291 applicable.

292 (2) (A) If the commission approves an application, the commission
293 shall determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate
294 committee for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705 from the fund, and
295 notify the State Comptroller and the candidate of such candidate
296 committee of such amount.

297 (B) (i) If the timing of the commission's approval of the grant for a
298 convention campaign in relation to the commission's consumer price
299 index adjustment under subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 9-
300 705 is such that the commission cannot yet determine the full amount of

301 the convention campaign grant, the commission shall approve the lesser
302 initial amount. The commission shall then authorize the payment of the
303 remaining portion of the convention campaign grant after such
304 adjustment has been made.

305 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (B)(i) of this
306 subdivision, the candidate committee of an applicant who submits an
307 application prior to July 3, 2025, shall only be approved by the
308 commission to receive payment of the lesser amount described in said
309 subparagraph.

310 (C) If the timing of the commission's approval of the grant for a
311 primary campaign or general election campaign in relation to the
312 Secretary of the State's determination of ballot status is such that the
313 commission cannot determine whether the qualified candidate
314 committee is entitled to the applicable full initial grant for the primary
315 or election or the applicable partial grant for the primary or election, as
316 the case may be, the commission shall approve the lesser applicable
317 partial initial grant. The commission shall then authorize the payment
318 of the remaining portion of the applicable primary campaign or general
319 election campaign grant after the commission has knowledge of the
320 circumstances regarding the ballot status of the opposing candidates in
321 such primary or election.

322 (D) Not later than thirty days following notification by the
323 commission in the case of a convention campaign grant, or not later than
324 two business days following notification by the commission in the case
325 of any other grant, the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the
326 State Treasurer for payment of any such approved amount to the
327 qualified candidate committee from the fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(25)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-704(b) and (c)

Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2028</i>	9-706(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-706(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) redefine "organization expenditure" to include campaign events at which a candidate or candidates are present, (2) move the timing of the consumer price index adjustments for individual contribution amounts and the aggregate contribution amounts candidates are required to raise, from January of the election year to (A) not later than July 3, 2025, for elections held in 2026, and (B) January of the prior year for elections held in subsequent cycles, (3) beginning with the 2030 election, allow major party candidates for Governor to apply for convention campaign grants beginning the January of the year preceding the election, (4) provide that candidates who change their party status after filing their grant applications are ineligible to receive additional grant funds, and (5) address approvals of grant applications in relation to the timing of such consumer price index adjustments.

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