



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 210

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 262

Senate, April 3, 2024

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-603 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Statements filed by party committees, political committees formed
4 to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question,
5 [proposing a constitutional convention, constitutional amendment or
6 revision of the Constitution, individual lobbyists,] and those political
7 committees and candidate committees formed to aid or promote the
8 success or defeat of any candidate for [the office of Governor, Lieutenant
9 Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller,
10 Attorney General, judge of probate and members of the General
11 Assembly] public office or the position of town committee member,
12 shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. A
13 political committee formed for a slate of candidates in a primary for the
14 office of justice of the peace shall file statements with the [town clerk of

15 the municipality in which the primary is to be held] State Elections
16 Enforcement Commission.

17 [(b) Statements filed by political committees formed solely to aid or
18 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question to be voted
19 upon by the electors of a single municipality and those political
20 committees or candidate committees formed to aid or promote the
21 success or defeat of any candidate for public office, other than those
22 enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, or the position of town
23 committee member shall be filed only with the town clerk of the
24 municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held. Each
25 unsalaried town clerk shall be entitled to receive ten cents from the town
26 for the filing of each such statement.]

27 [(c)] (b) A certification of a candidate who is exempt from the
28 requirement of subsection (a) of section 9-604, as amended by this act,
29 to form a candidate committee shall be filed with the State Elections
30 Enforcement Commission. [if the candidate seeks an office enumerated
31 in subsection (a) of this section, or with the town clerk of the
32 municipality in which the election is to be held if the candidate seeks an
33 office other than those enumerated. A certification of a group of
34 individuals who have joined solely to aid or promote a referendum
35 question and who are exempt from the requirement to form a political
36 committee under section 9-605 shall be filed with the town clerk of each
37 municipality in which the referendum is to be held.]

38 [(d)] (c) On December 31, 2006, the duties of the Secretary of the State
39 concerning the administration of campaign finance reporting under this
40 chapter shall be transferred to the State Elections Enforcement
41 Commission.

42 Sec. 2. Section 9-604 of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

44 (a) Each candidate for a particular public office or the position of
45 town committee member shall form a single candidate committee for
46 which he shall designate a treasurer and a depository institution

47 situated in this state as the depository for the committee's funds and
48 shall file a committee statement containing such designations, not later
49 than ten days after becoming a candidate, with the [proper authority]
50 State Elections Enforcement Commission as required by section 9-603,
51 as amended by this act. The candidate may also designate a deputy
52 treasurer on such committee statement. The treasurer and any deputy
53 treasurer so designated shall sign a statement accepting such
54 designation which the candidate shall include as part of, or file with, the
55 committee statement.

56 (b) The formation of a candidate committee by a candidate and the
57 filing of statements pursuant to section 9-608, as amended by this act,
58 shall not be required if the candidate files a certification with the [proper
59 authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission required by section
60 9-603, as amended by this act, not later than ten days after becoming a
61 candidate, and any of the following conditions exist for the campaign:
62 (1) The candidate is one of a slate of candidates whose campaigns are
63 funded solely by a party committee or a political committee formed for
64 a single election or primary and expenditures made on behalf of the
65 candidate's campaign are reported by the committee sponsoring the
66 candidate's candidacy; (2) the candidate finances the candidate's
67 campaign entirely from personal funds and does not solicit or receive
68 contributions, provided if said candidate personally makes an
69 expenditure or expenditures in excess of one thousand dollars to, or for
70 the benefit of, said candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or
71 election to an office or position, said candidate shall file statements
72 according to the same schedule and in the same manner as is required
73 of a treasurer of a candidate committee under section 9-608, as amended
74 by this act; (3) the candidate does not receive or expend funds in excess
75 of one thousand dollars; or (4) the candidate does not receive or expend
76 any funds, including personal funds, for the candidate's campaign. If
77 the candidate no longer qualifies for the exemption under any of these
78 conditions, the candidate shall comply with the provisions of subsection
79 (a) of this section, not later than three business days thereafter and shall
80 provide the candidate's designated treasurer with all information
81 required for completion of the treasurer's statements and filings as

82 required by section 9-608, as amended by this act. If the candidate no
83 longer qualifies for the exemption due to the condition stated in the
84 candidate's certification but so qualifies due to a different condition
85 specified in this subsection, the candidate shall file an amended
86 certification with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement
87 Commission and provide the new condition for the candidate's
88 qualification not later than three business days following the change in
89 circumstances of the financing of the candidate's campaign. The filing
90 of a certification under this subsection shall not relieve the candidate
91 from compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

92 (c) The chairman of a political committee formed to support a single
93 candidate for public office shall, not later than seven days after filing a
94 statement of organization with the [proper authority] State Elections
95 Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as amended by this act,
96 send the candidate a notice, by certified mail, of such filing. If a
97 candidate (1) does not, within fourteen days after receiving such notice,
98 disavow such committee, in writing, to the [proper authority] State
99 Elections Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as amended by
100 this act, or (2) disavows such committee within such period, but, at any
101 time before such disavowal, accepts funds from the committee for his
102 campaign, such committee shall be deemed to have been authorized by
103 such candidate and shall constitute a candidate committee for the
104 purposes of this chapter. No candidate shall establish, agree to or assist
105 in establishing, or give his consent or authorization to establishing, a
106 committee other than a single candidate committee to promote his
107 candidacy for any public office, except that a candidate may establish
108 an exploratory committee. The candidate shall designate on the
109 statement of organization for the exploratory committee the type of
110 office to which the candidate is determining whether to seek nomination
111 or election, as follows: (A) The General Assembly, (B) a state office, or
112 (C) any other public office. The candidate may also certify on the
113 statement of organization that the candidate will not be a candidate for
114 the office of state representative. Not later than fifteen days after a public
115 declaration by the candidate of the candidate's intention to seek
116 nomination or election to a particular public office, the candidate shall

117 form a single candidate committee, except that in the case of a candidate
118 establishing an exploratory committee for purposes including aiding or
119 promoting the candidate's candidacy for nomination or election to the
120 General Assembly or a state office, the candidate shall form a single
121 candidate committee not later than fifteen days after the date that the
122 treasurer of such exploratory committee is required to file a notice of
123 intent to dissolve the committee under subsection (f) of section 9-608, as
124 amended by this act. As used in this subsection, "state office" has the
125 same meaning as provided in subsection (e) of section 9-610.

126 (d) A slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the
127 peace shall designate a chairperson to form a single political committee
128 to comply with the requirements of section 9-605, as amended by this
129 act, except if the individuals on the slate unanimously consent to have
130 their campaign financed solely by a town committee and such
131 committee consents to such financing by filing a statement of consent
132 with the [town clerk of the municipality in which the primary is to be
133 held] State Elections Enforcement Commission.

134 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
136 *1, 2026*):

137 (d) At the time of filing statements required under this section, the
138 treasurer of each candidate committee shall send to the candidate a
139 duplicate statement and the treasurer of each party committee and each
140 political committee other than an exploratory committee shall send to
141 the chairman of the committee a duplicate statement. Each statement
142 required to be filed [with the commission] under this section, section 9-
143 601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712 shall be deemed to be filed in a
144 timely manner if: (1) For a statement filed as a hard copy, including, but
145 not limited to, a statement delivered by the United States Postal Service,
146 courier service, parcel service or hand delivery, the statement is received
147 by the commission by five o'clock p.m. on the day the statement is
148 required to be filed, (2) for a statement authorized by the commission to
149 be filed electronically, including, but not limited to, a statement filed via

150 dedicated electronic mail, facsimile machine, a web-based program
151 created by the commission or other electronic means, the statement is
152 transmitted to the commission not later than eleven fifty-nine o'clock
153 p.m. on the day the statement is required to be filed, or (3) for a
154 statement required to be filed pursuant to section 9-601d, section 9-706
155 or section 9-712, by the deadline specified in each such section. [Any
156 other filing required to be filed with a town clerk pursuant to this section
157 shall be deemed to be filed in a timely manner if it is delivered by hand
158 to the office of the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of
159 section 9-603 before four-thirty o'clock p.m. or postmarked by the
160 United States Postal Service before midnight on the required filing day.]
161 If the day for any filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the
162 statement shall be filed on the next business day thereafter. The State
163 Elections Enforcement Commission shall not levy a penalty upon a
164 treasurer for failure to file a hard copy of a statement in a timely manner
165 in accordance with the provisions of this section if such treasurer has a
166 copy of the statement time stamped by the State Elections Enforcement
167 Commission that shows timely receipt of the statement or the treasurer
168 has a return receipt from the United States Postal Service or a similar
169 receipt from a commercial delivery service confirming timely delivery
170 of such statement was made or should have been made to said
171 commission.

172 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 9-610 of the 2024
173 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
174 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

175 (2) A political committee established for ongoing political activities,
176 [and required pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-603 to file
177 statements with the commission] other than a committee established
178 solely for the purpose of aiding or promoting any candidate or
179 candidates for municipal office or the success or defeat of a referendum
180 question, shall be subject to the prohibition on making contributions
181 under subsection (e) of this section unless the treasurer of the committee
182 has filed a registration statement as described in subsection (b) of section
183 9-605 with the commission, on forms prescribed by the commission, on

184 or before November 15, 2012, for all such political committees in
185 existence on such date, or, if the committee is not in existence on such
186 date, not later than ten days after the organization of the committee
187 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-605, as amended by this act, and
188 on or before November fifteenth of each even-numbered year thereafter.
189 Such statements shall be filed even if there are no changes, additions or
190 deletions to the registration statement previously filed with the
191 commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, if an
192 officer of the committee has changed since the last registration statement
193 filed with the commission, such registration statement shall be filed by
194 the chairperson of the committee.

195 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-623 of the general statutes is
196 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
197 *1, 2026*):

198 (b) (1) If any treasurer fails to file any statement required by section
199 9-608, as amended by this act, or if any candidate fails to file either (A)
200 a statement for the formation of a candidate committee as required by
201 section 9-604, as amended by this act, or (B) a certification pursuant to
202 section 9-603, as amended by this act, that the candidate is exempt from
203 forming a candidate committee as required by section 9-604, as
204 amended by this act, within the time required, the treasurer or
205 candidate, as the case may be, shall pay a late filing fee of one hundred
206 dollars.

207 (2) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required
208 to be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the
209 commission shall, not later than ten days after the filing deadline is, or
210 should be, known to have passed, notify by certified mail, return receipt
211 requested, the person required to file that, if such statement or
212 certification is not filed not later than twenty-one days after such notice,
213 the person is in violation of section 9-603, as amended by this act, 9-604,
214 as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act.

215 [(3) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required
216 to be filed with a town clerk, the town clerk shall forthwith after the

217 filing deadline is, or should be, known to have passed, notify by certified
218 mail, return receipt requested, the person required to file that, if such
219 statement or certification is not filed not later than seven days after the
220 town clerk mails such notice, the town clerk shall notify the State
221 Elections Enforcement Commission that the person is in violation of
222 section 9-603, 9-604 or 9-608.]

223 [(4)] (3) The penalty for any violation of section 9-603, as amended by
224 this act, 9-604, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act,
225 shall be a fine of not less than two hundred dollars or more than two
226 thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

227 Sec. 6. Section 9-624 of the general statutes is repealed and the
228 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

229 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall prepare and
230 print the forms required for compliance with this chapter and distribute
231 them upon request to candidates and treasurers.

232 (b) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall, at the expense
233 of the state, prepare [and print] all forms for statements required to be
234 returned under the provisions of this chapter and [shall furnish to each
235 town clerk a sufficient supply of each of such blank forms as are
236 required to be filed with or returned to the town clerk. The town clerk
237 of each town shall, upon request, distribute to treasurers the forms
238 required for compliance with this chapter and, if not salaried, shall be
239 entitled to receive from the town the sum of ten cents for each copy]
240 make them available on the commission's Internet web site. In the case
241 of any treasurer for whom the requirement to file by electronic
242 submission has been waived pursuant to subsection (e) of section 9-675,
243 as amended by this act, the commission shall print such forms and
244 distribute them upon request to such treasurers.

245 Sec. 7. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the
246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

247 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a

248 web-based program for the preparation and electronic submission of
249 registration, certification of exemption from registration and financial
250 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, and (2)
251 prescribe the standard reporting format and specifications for any
252 software program created by a vendor for such purpose. No software
253 program created by a vendor may be used for the electronic submission
254 of such financial disclosure statements unless the commission
255 determines that the software program provides for the standard
256 reporting format and complies with the specifications prescribed under
257 subdivision (2) of this subsection for any such software program. The
258 commission shall provide training in the use of the web-based program
259 created by the commission.

260 (b) [On and after July 1, 2017, the] The following shall file all financial
261 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, by
262 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section: (1) The
263 treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory committee for each
264 candidate for nomination or election to [the office of Governor,
265 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State
266 Treasurer, Secretary of the State, state senator, state representative or
267 judge of probate] public office or the position of town committee
268 member that raises or spends one thousand dollars or more, (2) the
269 treasurer of any state central committee, legislative caucus committee or
270 legislative leadership committee, (3) the treasurer of any other political
271 committee or town committee [required to be registered with the
272 commission] that (A) raises or spends one thousand dollars or more
273 during the current calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one thousand
274 dollars or more in the preceding regular election cycle, and (4) the
275 treasurer of any committee, or any other person, who makes or obligates
276 to make any independent expenditure and who is required to file a
277 financial disclosure statement of any such independent expenditure
278 [with the State Elections Enforcement Commission] in accordance with
279 the provisions of section 9-601d. Once any such candidate committee or
280 exploratory committee has raised or spent one thousand dollars or more
281 during an election campaign, all previously filed statements required by
282 chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, which were not filed by electronic

283 submission shall be refiled in such manner not later than the date on
284 which the treasurer of such committee is required to file its next
285 financial disclosure statement.

286 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other
287 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends one
288 thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial disclosure
289 statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the
290 commission,] and (2) the treasurer of any other political committee or
291 town committee that neither raises nor spends one thousand dollars or
292 more who is required to file the financial disclosure statements required
293 by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the State Elections Enforcement
294 Commission] may file any such financial disclosure statements by
295 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

296 (d) All registration and certification of exemption from registration
297 statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, shall be filed by
298 electronic submission pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
299 this section.

300 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, upon the
301 written request of a treasurer or any other person responsible for filing
302 any statement described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of
303 subsection (b) of this section or in subsection (d) of this section, the
304 commission may waive the requirement to file by electronic submission
305 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section if such treasurer or other
306 person demonstrates good cause.

307 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-602 of the general statutes
308 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
309 *January 1, 2026*):

310 (b) No contribution in aid of or in opposition to the candidacy of any
311 person or to any party or referendum question shall be made at any
312 time, except to the committee's treasurer whose designation is on file
313 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission, a
314 solicitor or a candidate who is exempt from the requirement to form a

315 candidate committee and has filed a certification.

316 (c) An individual who is designated as treasurer of a committee shall
317 be responsible for all duties required of him under this chapter until the
318 committee is terminated. The treasurer shall be relieved of such duties
319 upon his permanent incapacity, resignation or replacement, provided a
320 statement to that effect is filed with the [proper authority] State Elections
321 Enforcement Commission, as provided in section 9-603, as amended by
322 this act. In the event of the death of the treasurer or after a statement has
323 been filed concerning the treasurer's incapacity, resignation or
324 replacement, if a deputy treasurer has been designated, the deputy
325 treasurer shall be responsible for all duties required of the treasurer
326 under this chapter until the candidate or chairman of the committee files
327 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission a
328 designation of a successor treasurer. If a deputy treasurer has not been
329 designated, the candidate or chairman shall designate a successor
330 treasurer and file such designation with the [proper authority] State
331 Elections Enforcement Commission not more than ten days after the
332 death of the treasurer or the filing of the statement of his incapacity,
333 resignation or replacement.

334 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is
335 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
336 *1, 2026*):

337 (a) The chairperson of each political committee shall designate a
338 treasurer and may designate a deputy treasurer. The treasurer and any
339 deputy treasurer so designated shall sign a statement accepting the
340 designation. The chairperson of each political committee shall file a
341 registration statement described in subsection (b) of this section along
342 with the statement signed by the designated treasurer and deputy
343 treasurer with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement
344 Commission, within ten days after its organization, provided that the
345 chairperson of any political committee organized within ten days prior
346 to any primary, election or referendum in connection with which it
347 intends to make any contributions or expenditures, shall immediately

348 file a registration statement.

349 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is
350 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
351 *1, 2026*):

352 (c) The treasurer of each political committee shall report any addition
353 to or change in information previously submitted in a statement of
354 organization to the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement
355 Commission not later than ten days after the addition or change,
356 provided if an officer of the committee has changed, such amended
357 statement shall be filed by the chairperson of the committee.

358 Sec. 11. Subsection (m) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is
359 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
360 *1, 2026*):

361 (m) Any obligation or restriction imposed by this section and sections
362 9-608, as amended by this act, 9-610, as amended by this act, 9-611, 9-
363 613, 9-615, 9-616, 9-618, 9-620, 9-621, 9-622 and 9-623, as amended by this
364 act, on a treasurer or a candidate committee shall be deemed to be
365 imposed on any candidate who is exempt from forming a candidate
366 committee and has filed a certification pursuant to subsection (b) of
367 section 9-604, as amended by this act, with the [proper authority] State
368 Elections Enforcement Commission.

369 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is
370 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
371 *1, 2026*):

372 (a) (1) Each treasurer of a committee, other than a state central
373 committee, shall file a statement, sworn under penalty of false statement
374 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission in
375 accordance with the provisions of section 9-603, as amended by this act,
376 (A) on the tenth calendar day in the months of January, April, July and
377 October, provided, if such tenth calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday or
378 legal holiday, the statement shall be filed on the next business day,

379 except that in the case of a candidate or exploratory committee
380 established for an office to be elected at a special election, statements
381 pursuant to this subparagraph shall not be required, (B) on the seventh
382 day preceding each regular state election, except that (i) in the case of a
383 candidate or exploratory committee established for an office to be
384 elected at a municipal election, the statement shall be filed on the
385 seventh day preceding a regular municipal election in lieu of such date,
386 except if the candidate's name is not eligible to appear on the ballot, in
387 which case such statement shall not be required, (ii) in the case of a town
388 committee, the statement shall be filed on the seventh day preceding
389 each municipal election in addition to such date, (iii) in the case of a
390 candidate committee in a state election that is required to file any
391 supplemental campaign finance statements pursuant to subdivisions (1)
392 and (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-712, such supplemental campaign
393 finance statements shall satisfy the filing requirement under this
394 subdivision, and (iv) in the case of a candidate committee established by
395 a candidate whose name is not eligible to appear on the ballot, such
396 statement shall not be required, and (C) if the committee has made or
397 received a contribution or expenditure in connection with any other
398 election, a primary or a referendum, on the seventh day preceding the
399 election, primary or referendum, except that in the case of a candidate
400 committee in a primary that is required to file statements pursuant to
401 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-712, such
402 statements shall satisfy the filing requirement under this subdivision.
403 The statement shall be complete as of eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. of
404 the last day of the month preceding the month in which the statement is
405 required to be filed, except that for the statement required to be filed on
406 the seventh day preceding the election, primary or referendum, the
407 statement shall be complete as of eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. of the
408 second day immediately preceding the required filing day. The
409 statement shall cover a period to begin with the first day not included
410 in the last filed statement. In the case of a candidate committee, the
411 statement required to be filed in January shall be in lieu of the statement
412 formerly required to be filed within forty-five days following an
413 election.

414 (2) Each treasurer of a candidate committee established by a
415 candidate in a primary, not later than thirty days after such primary,
416 and each treasurer of a political committee formed for a single primary,
417 election or referendum, not later than forty-five days after any election
418 or referendum not held in November, shall file statements in the same
419 manner as is required of them under subdivision (1) of this subsection.
420 A candidate committee established by a candidate who is unsuccessful
421 in the primary shall not be required to file any statements required
422 under subdivision (1) of this subsection following the primary unless
423 the candidate is eligible to appear on the general election ballot. If the
424 treasurer of a candidate committee established by a candidate, who is
425 unsuccessful in the primary or has terminated his candidacy prior to the
426 primary, distributes all surplus funds within thirty days following the
427 scheduled primary and discloses the distribution on the postprimary
428 statement, such treasurer shall not be required to file any subsequent
429 statement unless the committee has a deficit, in which case he shall file
430 any required statements in accordance with the provisions of
431 subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of this section.

432 (3) In the case of state central committees, (A) on the tenth calendar
433 day in the months of January, April and July, provided, if such tenth
434 calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, on the next business
435 day, (B) on the twelfth day preceding any regular election, and (C) if the
436 committee has made or received a contribution or expenditure in
437 connection with any other election, or any primary or referendum, on
438 the twelfth day preceding the election, primary or referendum, the
439 treasurer of each such committee shall file with the [proper authority]
440 State Elections Enforcement Commission, a statement, sworn under
441 penalty of false statement, complete as of the last day of the month
442 immediately preceding the month in which such statement is to be filed
443 in the case of statements required to be filed in January, April and July,
444 and complete as of the nineteenth day preceding an election, primary or
445 referendum in the case of the statement required to be filed on the
446 twelfth day preceding an election, primary or referendum, and in each
447 case covering a period to begin with the first day not included in the last
448 filed statement.

449 Sec. 13. Subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (e) of section 9-608 of
450 the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
451 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

452 (3) Not later than seven days after such distribution or not later than
453 seven days after all funds have been expended in accordance with
454 subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the treasurer
455 shall file a supplemental statement, sworn under penalty of false
456 statement, with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement
457 Commission, identifying all further contributions received since the
458 previous statement and explaining how any surplus has been
459 distributed or expended in accordance with this section. No surplus
460 may be distributed or expended until after the election, primary or
461 referendum.

462 (4) In the event of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a supplemental
463 statement ninety days after an election, primary or referendum not held
464 in November or on the seventh calendar day in February, or the next
465 business day if such day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, after an
466 election or referendum held in November, with the [proper authority]
467 State Elections Enforcement Commission and, thereafter, on the seventh
468 day of each month following if on the last day of the previous month
469 there was an increase or decrease in the deficit in excess of five hundred
470 dollars from that reported on the last statement filed. The treasurer shall
471 file such supplemental statements as required until the deficit is
472 eliminated. If any such committee does not have a surplus or a deficit,
473 the statement required to be filed not later than forty-five days following
474 any election or referendum not held in November or on the seventh
475 calendar day in January, or the next business day if such day is a
476 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, following an election or referendum
477 held in November, or not later than thirty days following any primary
478 shall be the last required statement.

479 Sec. 14. Subsection (f) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is
480 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
481 *1, 2026*):

482 (f) If an exploratory committee has been established by a candidate
483 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604, as amended by this act, the
484 treasurer of the committee shall file a notice of intent to dissolve it with
485 the [appropriate authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission
486 not later than fifteen days after the candidate's declaration of intent to
487 seek nomination or election to a particular public office, except that in
488 the case of an exploratory committee established by a candidate for
489 purposes that include aiding or promoting the candidate's candidacy for
490 nomination or election to the General Assembly or a state office, the
491 treasurer of the committee shall file such notice of intent to dissolve the
492 committee not later than fifteen days after the earlier of: (1) The
493 candidate's declaration of intent to seek nomination or election to a
494 particular public office, (2) the candidate's endorsement at a convention,
495 caucus or town committee meeting, or (3) the candidate's filing of a
496 candidacy for nomination under section 9-400 or 9-405. The treasurer
497 shall also file a statement identifying all contributions received or
498 expenditures made by the exploratory committee since the previous
499 statement and the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. In the
500 event of a surplus, the treasurer shall, not later than the filing of the
501 statement, distribute the surplus to the candidate committee established
502 pursuant to said section, except that (A) in the case of a surplus of an
503 exploratory committee established by a candidate who intends to be a
504 participating candidate, as defined in section 9-703, as amended by this
505 act, in the Citizens' Election Program, the treasurer may distribute to the
506 candidate committee only that portion of such surplus that is
507 attributable to contributions that meet the criteria for qualifying
508 contributions for the candidate committee under section 9-704 and shall
509 distribute the remainder of such surplus to the Citizens' Election Fund
510 established in section 9-701, and (B) in the case of a surplus of an
511 exploratory committee established for nomination or election to an
512 office other than the General Assembly or a state office (i) the treasurer
513 may only distribute to the candidate committee for nomination or
514 election to the General Assembly or state office of such candidate that
515 portion of such surplus which is in excess of the total contributions
516 which the exploratory committee received from lobbyists or political

517 committees established by lobbyists, during any period in which the
518 prohibitions in subsection (e) of section 9-610 apply, and (ii) any
519 remaining amount shall be returned to all such lobbyists and political
520 committees established by or on behalf of lobbyists, on a prorated basis
521 of contribution, or distributed to any charitable organization which is a
522 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
523 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
524 of the United States, as from time to time amended. If the candidate
525 decides not to seek nomination or election to any office, the treasurer
526 shall, within fifteen days after such decision, comply with the provisions
527 of this subsection and distribute any surplus in the manner provided by
528 this section for political committees other than those formed for ongoing
529 political activities, except that if the surplus is from an exploratory
530 committee established by the State Treasurer, any portion of the surplus
531 that is received from a principal of an investment services firm or a
532 political committee established by such firm shall be returned to such
533 principal or committee on a prorated basis of contribution. In the event
534 of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a statement thirty days after the
535 decision or declaration with the [proper authority] State Elections
536 Enforcement Commission and, thereafter, on the seventh day of each
537 month following if on the last day of the previous month there was an
538 increase or decrease in such deficit in excess of five hundred dollars
539 from that reported on the last statement filed. The treasurer shall file
540 supplemental statements until the deficit is eliminated. If the
541 exploratory committee does not have a surplus or deficit, the statement
542 filed after the candidate's declaration or decision shall be the last
543 required statement. If a candidate certifies on the statement of
544 organization for the exploratory committee pursuant to subsection (c) of
545 section 9-604, as amended by this act, that the candidate will not be a
546 candidate for the office of state representative and subsequently
547 establishes a candidate committee for the office of state representative,
548 the treasurer of the candidate committee shall pay to the State Treasurer,
549 for deposit in the General Fund, an amount equal to the portion of any
550 contribution received by said exploratory committee that exceeded two
551 hundred fifty dollars. As used in this subsection, "principal of an

552 investment services firm" has the meaning set forth in subsection (e) of
553 section 9-612 and "state office" has the same meaning set forth in
554 subsection (e) of section 9-610.

555 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-609 of the general statutes is
556 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
557 *1, 2026*):

558 (a) The chairman of each party committee shall designate a treasurer
559 and may designate a deputy treasurer, or in the case of a state central
560 committee, not more than two deputy treasurers. The treasurer and any
561 deputy treasurers so designated shall sign a statement accepting the
562 designation, which shall be filed with the [proper authority] State
563 Elections Enforcement Commission with the statement of designation
564 required under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-602. No
565 state central committee or town committee shall establish a committee
566 other than a single party committee for purposes of this chapter. A party
567 committee or a political committee organized for ongoing political
568 activities shall form no other political committees, except that two or
569 more such committees may join to form a political committee for the
570 purpose of a single fund-raising event.

571 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 9-703 of the general statutes is
572 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
573 *1, 2026*):

574 (a) Each candidate for nomination or election to the office of state
575 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of
576 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
577 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, shall file
578 an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The
579 affidavit shall include a written certification that the candidate either
580 intends to abide by the expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election
581 Program set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702, or does not intend
582 to abide by said limits. If the candidate intends to abide by said limits,
583 the affidavit shall also include written certifications (1) that the treasurer
584 of the candidate committee for said candidate shall expend any moneys

585 received from the Citizens' Election Fund in accordance with the
586 provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by
587 the State Elections Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of
588 section 9-706, (2) that the candidate shall repay to the fund any such
589 moneys that are not expended in accordance with subsection (g) of
590 section 9-607 and said regulations, (3) that the candidate and the
591 treasurer shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (1) of
592 subsection (a) of section 9-711, and (4) stating the candidate's status as a
593 major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate and, in the case
594 of a major party or minor party candidate, the name of such party. The
595 written certification described in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall
596 be made by both the candidate and the treasurer of the candidate
597 committee for said candidate. A candidate for nomination or election to
598 any such office shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m.
599 on the twenty-fifth day before the day of a primary, if applicable, or on
600 the fortieth day before the day of the election for such office, except that
601 in the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state
602 representative, the candidate shall file such affidavit not later than four
603 o'clock p.m. on the twenty-fifth day before the day of such special
604 election. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a candidate
605 who is not required to form a candidate committee pursuant to
606 subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-604, as amended by
607 this act, files a certification with the commission pursuant to subsection
608 [(c)] (b) of section 9-603, as amended by this act, and does not intend to
609 participate in the Citizens' Election Program shall not be required to file
610 such affidavit of intent not to abide by the expenditure limits of said
611 program. Any such candidate shall be referred to as a nonparticipating
612 candidate, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

613 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 9-709 of the general statutes is
614 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
615 *1, 2026*):

616 (b) If a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Lieutenant
617 Governor is campaigning jointly with a candidate for nomination or
618 election to the office of Governor, the candidate committee and any

619 exploratory committee for the candidate for the office of Lieutenant
620 Governor shall be dissolved as of the applicable date set forth in
621 subsection (a) of this section. Not later than fifteen days after said date,
622 the treasurer of the candidate committee formed to aid or promote the
623 success of said candidate for nomination or election to the office of
624 Lieutenant Governor shall file a statement with the [proper authority]
625 State Elections Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as
626 amended by this act, identifying all contributions received or
627 expenditures made by the committee since the previous statement and
628 the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. Not later than thirty
629 days after the applicable date set forth in subsection (a) of this section,
630 (1) the treasurer of a qualified candidate committee formed to aid or
631 promote the success of said candidate for nomination or election to the
632 office of Lieutenant Governor shall distribute any surplus to the fund,
633 and (2) the treasurer of a nonqualified candidate committee formed to
634 aid or promote the success of said candidate for nomination or election
635 to the office of Lieutenant Governor shall distribute such surplus in
636 accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 9-608, as
637 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2026	9-603
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	9-604
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	9-608(d)
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	9-610(f)(2)
Sec. 5	January 1, 2026	9-623(b)
Sec. 6	January 1, 2026	9-624
Sec. 7	January 1, 2026	9-675
Sec. 8	January 1, 2026	9-602(b) and (c)
Sec. 9	January 1, 2026	9-605(a)
Sec. 10	January 1, 2026	9-605(c)
Sec. 11	January 1, 2026	9-607(m)
Sec. 12	January 1, 2026	9-608(a)
Sec. 13	January 1, 2026	9-608(e)(3) and (4)
Sec. 14	January 1, 2026	9-608(f)
Sec. 15	January 1, 2026	9-609(a)

Sec. 16	January 1, 2026	9-703(a)
Sec. 17	January 1, 2026	9-709(b)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 8(c), in the third and fourth sentences, "proper authority" was changed to "[proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission" for consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Cost	163,403
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	67,403

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

This bill shifts the requirement of filing for municipal candidates and candidate committees from the local level to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) resulting in a cost of \$163,403 in FY 26 and a cost of \$67,404 in fringe benefits. This funding will support two additional full-time employees² for the SEEC which will increase consistent input of information into the SEEC's campaign reporting system (ECRIS) and increase staff availability to answer questions for municipal candidates and committees.

The bill removes the requirements for most candidates and candidate committees to file with their local town clerk's office resulting in

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

² This includes an IT Analyst 1 position at an annual rate of \$83,350 and one Elections Officer at an annual rate of \$80,053.

potential savings for municipalities. This reduces the workload for some municipalities and eliminates a previous requirement to pay unsalaried town clerks \$0.10 per filing.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and employee wage increases.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 262*****AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following changes in the campaign finance laws:

1. requires various entities to file certain campaign financial disclosure statements with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) rather than the town clerk;
2. requires that municipal campaign financial disclosure statements and all registration statements be filed with SEEC through a web-based program (i.e., eCRIS); and
3. modifies an existing exemption for refiling registration statements for certain political committees to conform to these changes and current practice.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

MUNICIPAL FILINGS

The bill requires the following entities to file financial disclosure statements or exemption certifications with SEEC rather than with the town clerk:

1. exploratory, candidate, and political state committees for municipal candidates;
2. political committees for referendum questions to be voted on by a single municipality; and
3. a slate of candidates in a primary election for justice of the peace.

If a slate of candidates for the office of justice of the peace unanimously agrees to be financed solely by a town committee, the bill requires the committee to file a consent statement with SEEC instead of the town clerk. By law, unchanged by the bill, if a consent statement is filed, the slate is exempt from political committee requirements (CGS § 9-605).

Additionally, since these statements will no longer be filed with the town clerks, the bill makes conforming changes and replaces related requirements that SEEC prepare, print, and provide campaign financial disclosure forms to the town clerks and that unsalaried town clerks receive 10 cents from the town for each filing. Instead, SEEC must make the forms available on the commission's website. SEEC must also print and distribute these forms to treasurers who have received a waiver to file electronically.

The bill also removes obsolete language referencing individual lobbyists filing with SEEC. In practice, lobbyists register with the Office of State Ethics (CGS § 1-94).

ELECTRONIC FILING

The bill also requires that the following statements be filed via a web-based program created by SEEC (i.e., eCRIS): (1) municipal campaign financial disclosure statements for candidate and exploratory committees, (2) all certificates of exemptions from registration, and (3) all registration statements.

Existing law already requires the use of eCRIS for certain entities: (1) treasurers for candidates and committees for certain state offices and (2) committees required to file with the commission. Additionally, under current law, registration statements must be filed electronically or manually with the proper authority (i.e., SEEC or the town clerk). The law also allows SEEC to waive the requirement to file electronically for good cause.

REGISTRATION EXEMPTION

The bill also modifies an existing exemption to the requirement that

certain political committees reregister with SEEC. Under current law, political committees required to file with SEEC must file a registration statement (1) within 10 days after organization and (2) by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The bill narrows this exemption to political committees established solely for (1) aiding or promoting candidates for municipal office or (2) the success or defeat of a referendum question. (These committees are generally not subject to the refiling requirement as they rarely last longer than one election.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/15/2024)