

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5452

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.

**Vote Date:** 3/26/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/13/2024

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would make several changes to campaign finance statutes. It would require treasurers to provide written authorization for all expenditures and would change the disclaimer requirements for campaign text messages. It would also allow legislative caucus leaders to transfer money between themselves and would require SEEC to adjust CEP contribution thresholds on the first of January of the relevant year.

The substitute language clarifies who can be held liable for violations of the bill and defines certain terms in the bill. It also changes several dates in the process of adjusting Citizen's Election Program thresholds.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Michael Brandi, Executive Director, SEEC: Has some concerns with the bill. States that the section that requires all expenditures to be authorized by the campaign treasurer is overly broad, and written authorization is already required for expenditures greater than \$100. States that the language in Section 1 through 3 to make consultants liable is simple but is too broad, and too narrow in its scope, and may cause a great deal of confusion for treasurers. Also states that there should be clearer requirements that text messages from campaigns disclose the campaign committee that is paying for them, which is important for public knowledge more than it is an inconvenience. Also states that this bill could undermine the intention of donors by allowing leadership of caucus committees to share funds among themselves, and that CPI adjustments should be based on numbers ending in October rather than November.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

No sources of support were provided.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

Pamela Klem, Legislative Specialist, CT League of Women Voters: States that they have concerns about certain elements of the bill. States that the requirement to authorize trivial expenditures is unnecessary and burdensome as there is already a requirement for treasurers to provide written authorization for expenditures greater than \$100. Also states that they have concerns with section 2 as it is too vague and broad, and that the elimination of requiring a named individual in campaign text messages reduces transparency for voters. Also states that it is wrong for certain allegations of election impropriety to be dismissed based on the timeline in the bill, as it could result in complaints occurring very close to the election being dismissed before the election.

Several individuals expressed opposition to this bill.

These individuals include:

Krystin D'Amato  
Nicholas D'Amato  
Mr. Glenn Fuoco  
Jermaine Cruz

**Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk      Date: 4/4/2024**