



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 516

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7093

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through REP. DATHAN of the 142nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA, INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND OTHER CAMPAIGN FINANCE CHANGES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-601 of the general statutes is amended by adding
2 subdivision (39) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (39) "Independent expenditure political committee" means a
4 political committee that makes only (A) independent expenditures (i) to
5 promote the success or defeat of any candidate seeking (I) the
6 nomination for election, or (II) election, or (ii) for the purpose of aiding
7 or promoting the success or defeat of any (I) referendum question, or
8 (II) political party, and (B) contributions to other independent
9 expenditure political committees.

10 Sec. 2. Subdivision (3) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
12 *passage*):

13 (3) "Political committee" means (A) a committee organized by a
14 business entity or organization, (B) persons other than individuals, or
15 two or more individuals organized or acting jointly conducting their
16 activities in or outside the state, (C) an exploratory committee, (D) a
17 committee established by or on behalf of a slate of candidates in a
18 primary for the office of justice of the peace, but does not mean a
19 candidate committee or a party committee, (E) a legislative caucus
20 committee, [or] (F) a legislative leadership committee, or (G) an
21 independent expenditure political committee.

22 Sec. 3. Section 9-601c of the general statutes is amended by adding
23 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

24 (NEW) (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d),
25 inclusive, of this section, an independent expenditure political
26 committee may coordinate with one or more other independent
27 expenditure political committees for the purpose of making one or more
28 independent expenditures.

29 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of section 9-601d of the general
30 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
31 (*Effective from passage*):

32 (a) Any person, as defined in section 9-601, as amended by this act,
33 may, unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, including, but not
34 limited to, any provision of this chapter or chapter 157, make unlimited
35 independent expenditures, as defined in section 9-601c, as amended by
36 this act, and accept unlimited covered transfers, as defined in [said]
37 section 9-601, as amended by this act. Except as provided [pursuant to]
38 in this section, any such person who makes or obligates to make an
39 independent expenditure or expenditures in excess of one thousand
40 dollars, in the aggregate, shall file statements according to the same
41 schedule and in the same manner as is required of a treasurer of a
42 [candidate] political committee pursuant to section 9-608, as amended
43 by this act. Any such person, other than a committee, shall file with the
44 proper authority, as provided in section 9-603, (1) a long-form report
45 and a short-form report pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this

46 section for such independent expenditure or expenditures, or (2) a short-
47 form report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for each
48 subsequent independent expenditure made or obligated to be made.

49 (b) Any person who makes or obligates to make an independent
50 expenditure or expenditures in an election or primary for the office of
51 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer,
52 State Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state
53 representative, [which] or to promote the success or defeat of a
54 referendum question proposing a constitutional convention,
55 constitutional amendment or revision of the Constitution, that exceed
56 one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, during [a primary campaign or
57 a general election campaign, as defined in section 9-700, shall file,
58 electronically, a long-form and a short-form report of such independent
59 expenditure or expenditures with the State Elections Enforcement
60 Commission pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section. The
61 person that makes or obligates to make such independent expenditure
62 or expenditures shall file such reports] the period beginning on June first
63 in the year of a regular election, or on the day the Governor issues writs
64 of election pursuant to section 9-215 in the case of a special election for
65 the office of state senator or state representative, and ending on the day
66 following the primary or election for which such person made or
67 obligated to make such independent expenditure or expenditures, shall
68 electronically file, in the case of a committee, a report pursuant to section
69 9-608, as amended by this act, or, in the case of any person other than a
70 committee, a long-form report and a short-form report pursuant to
71 subsections (c) and (d) of this section not later than twenty-four hours
72 after (1) making any such payment, or (2) obligating to make any such
73 payment, with respect to the primary, [or] election [. If any such person
74 makes or incurs a subsequent independent expenditure, such person
75 shall report such expenditure pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.]
76 or referendum. In the case of a special election for the office of state
77 senator or state representative, if any person makes or obligates to make
78 an independent expenditure or expenditures for such special election
79 that exceed one thousand dollars, in the aggregate, prior to the day the
80 Governor issues writs of election pursuant to section 9-215, such person

81 shall file a report not later than twenty-four hours after such writs of
82 election are issued. Such reports shall be filed under penalty of false
83 statement.

84 (c) The independent expenditure long-form report shall identify: (1)
85 The name of the person making or obligating to make such independent
86 expenditure or expenditures and, in the case of a person other than an
87 individual, provide a certification that the person making such
88 independent expenditure is not a foreign national; (2) the tax exempt
89 status of such person, if applicable; (3) the mailing address of such
90 person; (4) the principal business address of the person, if different from
91 the mailing address; (5) the address, telephone number and electronic
92 mail address of the agent for service of process in this state of such
93 person; (6) the date of the primary, [or] election or referendum for which
94 [the] such independent expenditure or expenditures were made or
95 obligated to be made; (7) the name of any candidate who, or the text of
96 any referendum question that, was the subject of [any] such
97 independent expenditure or expenditures and whether [the] such
98 independent expenditure or expenditures were in support of or in
99 opposition to such candidate or referendum question; and (8) the name,
100 telephone number and electronic mail address for the individual filing
101 such report. Such individual filing such report shall, under penalty of
102 false statement, affirm that the expenditure reported is an independent
103 expenditure. [under penalty of false statement.]

104 (d) As part of any filing made pursuant to subsection (c) of this
105 section and for each subsequent independent expenditure made or
106 obligated to be made by a person with respect to the primary, [or]
107 election or referendum for which a long-form report pursuant to
108 subsection (c) of this section has been filed on behalf of such person, an
109 individual shall file [, electronically,] a short-form report for each such
110 independent expenditure. [, not later than twenty-four hours after such
111 person makes a payment for an independent expenditure or obligates
112 to make such an independent expenditure.] Such short-form report shall
113 identify: (1) The name of the person making or obligating to make such
114 independent expenditure; (2) the amount of the independent

115 expenditure; (3) whether the independent expenditure was in support
116 of or in opposition to a candidate or referendum question and the name
117 of such candidate or text of such referendum question; (4) a brief
118 description of the independent expenditure made, including the type of
119 communication, based on categories determined by the State Elections
120 Enforcement Commission, and the allocation of such independent
121 expenditure in support of or in opposition to each such candidate or
122 referendum question, if such independent expenditure was made in
123 support of or in opposition to more than one candidate or referendum
124 question; and (5) the name, telephone number and electronic mail
125 address for the individual filing such report. Such individual filing such
126 report shall, under penalty of false statement, affirm that the
127 expenditure reported is an independent expenditure. [under penalty of
128 false statement.]

129 (e) No person reporting an independent expenditure pursuant to the
130 provisions of subsection (c) or (d) of this section shall be required to file
131 a statement pursuant to section 9-608, as amended by this act, for such
132 independent expenditure.

133 (f) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, as part
134 of any statement filed pursuant to this section, if (A) a person who
135 makes or obligates to make an independent expenditure [(A)] has
136 received a covered transfer during the twelve-month period prior to (i)
137 a primary or election, as applicable to the reported expenditure, for an
138 office that a candidate described in subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of
139 this section is seeking, or (ii) a referendum on a question proposing a
140 constitutional convention, constitutional amendment or revision of the
141 Constitution, and (B) such independent expenditure is made or
142 obligated to be made on or after the date that is one hundred eighty days
143 prior to such primary, [or] election or referendum, such person shall
144 disclose the source and the amount of any such covered transfer such
145 person received that is in an amount that is five thousand dollars or
146 more, in the aggregate, during the twelve-month period prior to such
147 primary, [or] election or referendum, as applicable to the reported
148 expenditure.

149 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply
150 to any person who discloses the source and amount of a covered transfer
151 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection as part of any report to
152 the Federal Election Commission, [or] the Internal Revenue Service or
153 any similar out-of-state agency, provided such person includes a copy
154 of, or information sufficient to find, any such report as part of the report
155 of each applicable independent expenditure filed pursuant to this
156 section. If a source and amount of a covered transfer is not included as
157 part of any such report, the maker of the independent expenditure shall
158 disclose the source and amount of such covered transfer pursuant to
159 subdivision (1) of this subsection, if applicable.

160 (g) (1) A person may, unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by
161 law, including, but not limited to, any provision of this chapter or
162 chapter 157, establish a dedicated independent expenditure account [,
163 for the purpose of engaging in] that may be used to make independent
164 expenditures, [that] provided such account is segregated from all other
165 accounts controlled by such person. Such dedicated independent
166 expenditure account may receive covered transfers directly from
167 persons other than the person establishing the dedicated account and
168 may not receive transfers from another account controlled by the person
169 establishing the dedicated account, except as provided in subdivision
170 (2) of this subsection. If an independent expenditure is made from such
171 segregated account, any report required pursuant to this section or
172 disclaimer required pursuant to section 9-621, as amended by this act,
173 [may include only] shall include those persons who made covered
174 transfers directly to the dedicated independent expenditure account.

175 (2) If a person who has made a covered transfer to another account
176 controlled by the person establishing a dedicated independent
177 expenditure account requests that such covered transfer be used for the
178 purposes of making an independent expenditure from the dedicated
179 independent expenditure account, the amount of such covered transfer
180 may be transferred to the dedicated independent expenditure account
181 and shall be treated as a covered transfer directly to the dedicated
182 independent expenditure account.

183 (h) Any person may file a complaint with the commission upon the
184 belief that (1) any such independent expenditure report or statement is
185 false, or (2) any person who is required to file an independent
186 expenditure report under this subsection has failed to do so. The
187 commission shall make a prompt determination on such a complaint.

188 (i) (1) [If] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-623, if (A) a
189 person fails to file a report in accordance with the provisions of this
190 section or section 9-608, as amended by this act, for an independent
191 expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be made more than
192 ninety days before the day of a primary, [or election, the] election or
193 referendum, such person shall be subject to a civil penalty, imposed by
194 the State Elections Enforcement Commission, of not more than ten
195 thousand dollars, [If] and (B) a person fails to file a report [required] in
196 accordance with the provisions of this section for an independent
197 expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be made ninety days
198 or less before the day of a primary, [or] election or referendum, such
199 person shall be subject to a civil penalty, imposed by the State Elections
200 Enforcement Commission, of not more than twenty thousand dollars or
201 twice the amount of such independent expenditure or expenditures,
202 whichever is greater.

203 (2) [If] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-623, if the State
204 Elections Enforcement Commission finds that any such failure is
205 knowing and wilful, the person responsible for [the] such failure shall
206 [also be fined] be subject to an additional civil penalty, imposed by the
207 commission, of not more than fifty thousand dollars or ten times the
208 amount of such independent expenditure or expenditures, whichever is
209 greater, and the commission may refer the matter to the office of the
210 Chief State's Attorney.

211 (3) If the State Elections Enforcement Commission finds that a person
212 is subject to a civil penalty under this subsection, (A) in the case of a
213 committee, (i) the chairperson, and (ii) any officer, or (B) in the case of a
214 person other than a committee, (i) the chief executive or chief financial
215 officer, or equivalent, (ii) any other officer, and (iii) any manager who

216 had direct, extensive and substantive decision-making authority over
217 the independent expenditure or expenditures made or obligated to be
218 made by such person, shall be liable for paying any amount of such civil
219 penalty imposed that is not paid by such person within one year after
220 the latter of (I) the date on which the commission imposed such civil
221 penalty, or (II) the date of the final judgment of a court of competent
222 jurisdiction following any appeal taken from the commission's action in
223 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

224 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is
225 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
226 *passage*):

227 (b) The registration statement shall include: (1) The name and address
228 of the committee; (2) a statement of the purpose of the committee; (3) the
229 name and address of its treasurer, and deputy treasurer if applicable; (4)
230 the name, address and position of its chairperson, and other principal
231 officers if applicable; (5) the name and address of the depository
232 institution for its funds; (6) the name of each person, other than an
233 individual, that is a member of the committee; (7) the name and party
234 affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is supporting and the
235 office or position sought by each candidate; (8) if the committee is
236 supporting the entire ticket of any party, a statement to that effect and
237 the name of the party; (9) if the committee is supporting or opposing
238 any referendum question, a brief statement identifying the substance of
239 the question; (10) if the committee is established or controlled by a
240 [business entity or organization] person or an individual acting as the
241 agent of a person, the name of [the business entity or organization] such
242 person and, if the committee is established or controlled by a person
243 other than a human being, the name of its chief executive officer or
244 equivalent and a certification that the person making the expenditure is
245 not a foreign national; (11) if the committee is established by an
246 organization, a statement of whether it will receive its funds from the
247 organization's treasury or from voluntary contributions; (12) if the
248 committee files reports with the Federal Elections Commission, the
249 Internal Revenue Service or any similar out-of-state agency, a statement

250 to that effect including the name of the agency and identifying
251 information under which any such filings are made; (13) a statement
252 indicating whether the committee is established for a single primary,
253 election or referendum or for ongoing political activities; (14) if the
254 committee is established or controlled by a lobbyist, a statement to that
255 effect and the name of the lobbyist; (15) the name and address of the
256 person making the initial contribution or disbursement, if any, to the
257 committee; and (16) any information that the State Elections
258 Enforcement Commission requires to facilitate compliance with the
259 provisions of this chapter or chapter 157. If no such initial contribution
260 or disbursement, as described in subdivision (15) of this subsection, has
261 been made at the time of the filing of such statement, the treasurer of the
262 committee shall, not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of such
263 contribution or disbursement, file a report with the State Elections
264 Enforcement Commission. The report shall be in the same form as
265 statements filed under section 9-608, as amended by this act.

266 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general
267 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
268 (*Effective from passage*):

269 (g) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "the lawful purposes of the
270 committee" means: (i) For a candidate committee or exploratory
271 committee, the promoting of the nomination or election of the candidate
272 who established the committee, except that after a political party
273 nominates candidates for election to the offices of Governor and
274 Lieutenant Governor, whose names shall be so placed on the ballot in
275 the election that an elector will cast a single vote for both candidates, as
276 prescribed in section 9-181, a candidate committee established by either
277 such candidate may also promote the election of the other such
278 candidate; (ii) for a political committee, other than an independent
279 expenditure political committee described in subparagraph (A)(iv) of
280 this subdivision, the promoting of a political party, including party
281 building activities, the success or defeat of candidates for nomination
282 and election to public office or position subject to the requirements of
283 this chapter [,] or the success or defeat of referendum questions,

284 provided [a political committee formed for a single referendum
285 question shall not promote the success or defeat of any candidate, and
286 provided further] a legislative leadership committee or a legislative
287 caucus committee may expend funds to defray costs for conducting
288 legislative or constituency-related business which are not reimbursed or
289 paid by the state; [and] (iii) for a party committee, the promoting of the
290 party, including party building activities, the candidates of the party or
291 the success or defeat of referendum questions, and continuing operating
292 costs of the party; and (iv) for an independent expenditure political
293 committee, the promoting of a political party, the success or defeat of
294 candidates for nomination or election to public office or position subject
295 to the requirements of this chapter or the success or defeat of
296 referendum questions, and (B) "immediate family" means a spouse or
297 dependent child of a candidate who resides in the candidate's
298 household.

299 Sec. 7. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section
300 9-608 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
301 in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

302 (C) [(i) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
303 success or defeat of any referendum question, which does not receive
304 contributions from a business entity or an organization, shall distribute
305 its surplus to a party committee, to a political committee organized for
306 ongoing political activities, to a national committee of a political party,
307 to all contributors to the committee on a prorated basis of contribution,
308 to state or municipal governments or agencies or to any organization
309 which is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the
310 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
311 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time
312 amended. (ii) Each political committee formed solely to aid or promote
313 the success or defeat of any referendum question, which receives
314 contributions from a business entity or an organization] An
315 independent expenditure political committee, other than an
316 independent expenditure political committee formed for ongoing
317 political activities, shall distribute its surplus to all contributors to the

318 committee on a prorated basis of contribution, to state or municipal
319 governments or agencies, or to any organization which is tax-exempt
320 under [said provisions] Sections 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) of the Internal
321 Revenue Code, as amended from time to time. Notwithstanding the
322 provisions of this subsection, a committee formed for a single
323 referendum shall not be required to expend its surplus [not later than]
324 within ninety days after the referendum and may continue in existence
325 if a substantially similar referendum question on the same issue will be
326 submitted to the electorate within six months after the first referendum.
327 If two or more substantially similar referenda on the same issue are
328 submitted to the electorate, each no more than six months apart, the
329 committee shall expend such surplus within ninety days following the
330 date of the last such referendum;

331 Sec. 8. Section 9-611 of the general statutes is repealed and the
332 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

333 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, for
334 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate
335 or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
336 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
337 the office of (1) Governor, in excess of three thousand five hundred
338 dollars; (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer,
339 Comptroller or Attorney General, in excess of two thousand dollars; (3)
340 chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of one
341 thousand dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one
342 thousand dollars; or (5) state representative or any other office of a
343 municipality not previously included in this subsection, in excess of two
344 hundred fifty dollars. The limits imposed by this subsection shall be
345 applied separately to primaries and elections.

346 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or
347 for the benefit of, an exploratory committee, in excess of three hundred
348 seventy-five dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory
349 committee certifies on the statement of organization for the exploratory
350 committee pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604 that the candidate

351 will not be a candidate for the office of state representative. No
352 individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the
353 benefit of, any exploratory committee, in excess of two hundred fifty
354 dollars, if the candidate establishing the exploratory committee does not
355 so certify.

356 (2) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for
357 the benefit of, a political committee formed by a slate of candidates in a
358 primary for the office of justice of the peace, in excess of two hundred
359 fifty dollars.

360 [(c) No individual shall make contributions to such candidates or
361 committees which in the aggregate exceed thirty thousand dollars for
362 any single election and primary preliminary to such election.]

363 [(d)] (c) No individual shall make a contribution to any candidate or
364 committee, other than a contribution in kind, in excess of one hundred
365 dollars except by personal check or credit card of that individual.

366 [(e)] (d) No individual who is less than eighteen years of age shall
367 make a contribution or contributions, in excess of thirty dollars to, for
368 the benefit of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of: (1) A
369 candidate or a committee supporting or opposing any candidate's
370 campaign for nomination at a primary to any office; (2) a candidate or a
371 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
372 election to any office; (3) an exploratory committee; (4) any other
373 political committee in any calendar year; or (5) a party committee in any
374 calendar year. Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (2) of
375 section 9-7b, any individual who is less than eighteen years of age who
376 violates any provision of this subsection shall not be subject to the
377 provisions of subdivision (2) of section 9-7b.

378 Sec. 9. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-612 of the general statutes
379 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
380 *from passage*):

381 (a) (1) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions in any

382 one calendar year in excess of fifteen thousand dollars to the state central
383 committee of any party, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant
384 to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a town
385 committee of any political party, or for the benefit of such committee
386 pursuant to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a
387 legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee; [,] or
388 one thousand dollars to any other political committee [other than (1)]
389 except (A) a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
390 success or defeat of a referendum question, [(2)] (B) an exploratory
391 committee, [(3)] (C) a political committee established by an
392 organization, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant to its
393 authorization or request, or [(4)] (D) a political committee formed by a
394 slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the peace of
395 the same town.

396 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
397 subsection and unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, an
398 individual may make contributions to an independent expenditure
399 political committee, including a political committee formed solely to aid
400 or promote the success or defeat of any referendum question.

401 (b) (1) No individual shall make a contribution to a political
402 committee established by an organization which receives its funds from
403 the organization's treasury. With respect to a political committee
404 established by an organization which has complied with the provisions
405 of subsection (b) or (c) of section 9-614, as amended by this act, and has
406 elected to receive contributions, no individual other than a member of
407 the organization may make contributions to the committee, in which
408 case the individual may contribute not more than seven hundred fifty
409 dollars in any one calendar year to such committee or for the benefit of
410 such committee pursuant to its authorization or request.

411 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
412 subsection and unless otherwise restricted or prohibited by law, an
413 individual may make contributions to an independent expenditure
414 political committee established by an organization.

415 Sec. 10. Section 9-613 of the general statutes is repealed and the
416 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

417 (a) [No] Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a business
418 entity shall not make any contributions or expenditures (1) to, or for the
419 benefit of, any candidate's campaign for election to any public office or
420 position subject to this chapter or for nomination at a primary for any
421 such office or position, or (2) to promote the defeat of any candidate for
422 any such office or position. [No] A business entity shall not make any
423 other contributions or expenditures to promote the success or defeat of
424 any political party. [, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
425 No] A business entity shall not establish more than one political
426 committee. A political committee shall be deemed to have been
427 established by a business entity if the initial disbursement or
428 contribution to the committee is made under subsection (b) of this
429 section or by an officer, director, owner, limited or general partner or
430 holder of stock constituting five per cent or more of the total outstanding
431 stock of any class of the business entity.

432 (b) A business entity may make reasonable and necessary transfers or
433 disbursements to or for the benefit of a political committee established
434 by such business entity, for the administration of, or solicitation of
435 contributions to, such political committee. Nonmonetary contributions
436 by a business entity which are incidental in nature and are directly
437 attributable to the administration of such political committee shall be
438 exempt from the reporting requirements of this chapter.

439 [(c) The provisions of this section shall not preclude a business entity
440 from making contributions or expenditures to promote the success or
441 defeat of a referendum question.]

442 [(d) A] (c) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a
443 political committee organized by a business entity shall not make a
444 contribution or contributions to or for the benefit of any candidate's
445 campaign for nomination at a primary or any candidate's campaign for
446 election to the office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars;
447 (2) Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller

448 or Attorney General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) state
449 senator, probate judge or chief executive officer of a town, city or
450 borough, in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars; (4) state
451 representative, in excess of seven hundred fifty dollars; or (5) any other
452 office of a municipality not included in subdivision (3) of this
453 subsection, in excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars. The limits
454 imposed by this subsection shall apply separately to primaries and
455 elections and contributions by any such committee to candidates
456 designated in this subsection shall not exceed one hundred thousand
457 dollars in the aggregate for any single election and primary preliminary
458 thereto. Contributions to such committees shall also be subject to the
459 provisions of section 9-618, as amended by this act, in the case of
460 committees formed for ongoing political activity or section 9-619, as
461 amended by this act, in the case of committees formed for a single
462 election or primary.

463 [(e) No] (d) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a
464 political committee organized by a business entity shall not make a
465 contribution or contributions to (1) a state central committee of a
466 political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in any
467 calendar year, (2) a town committee of any political party, in excess of
468 one thousand five hundred dollars in any calendar year, (3) an
469 exploratory committee in excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars,
470 or (4) any other kind of political committee, in excess of two thousand
471 dollars in any calendar year.

472 [(f)] (e) As used in this subsection, "investment services" means
473 investment legal services, investment banking services, investment
474 advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or
475 brokerage firm services. [No] A political committee established by a
476 firm which provides investment services and to which the State
477 Treasurer pays compensation, expenses or fees or issues a contract shall
478 not make a contribution to, or solicit contributions on behalf of, an
479 exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a
480 candidate for nomination or election to the office of State Treasurer
481 during the term of office of the State Treasurer who does business with

482 such firm.

483 [(g)] (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a
484 [corporation, cooperative association, limited partnership, professional
485 association, limited liability company or limited liability partnership,
486 whether formed in this state or any other, acting alone,] business entity
487 may make independent expenditures and contributions to an
488 independent expenditure political committee.

489 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized by a
490 business entity shall not make any contribution unless such contribution
491 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

492 Sec. 11. Section 9-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the
493 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

494 (a) An organization may make contributions or expenditures, other
495 than [those made to promote] for the purpose of promoting the success
496 or defeat of a referendum question, only by first forming its own
497 political committee. [The] Unless such political committee is an
498 independent expenditure political committee, the political committee
499 shall then be authorized to (1) receive funds (A) exclusively from the
500 organization's treasury or from voluntary contributions made by its
501 members, but not both, (B) from another political committee, or [,] (C)
502 from a candidate committee distributing a surplus, and [(1) to] (2) make
503 (A) contributions or expenditures to, or for the benefit of, a candidate's
504 campaign or a political party, or [(2) to make] (B) contributions to
505 another political committee. [No] An organization shall not form more
506 than one political committee. A political committee shall be deemed to
507 have been established by an organization if the initial contribution to the
508 committee is made by the organization's treasury or an officer or
509 director of the organization.

510 (b) A political committee established by an organization may elect to
511 alter the manner in which it is funded if it complies with the
512 requirements of this subsection. The committee chairperson shall notify
513 the repository with which the committee's most recent statement of

514 organization is filed, in writing, of the committee's intent to alter its
515 manner of funding. [Within] Not later than fifteen days after the date of
516 receipt of such notification, the treasurer of such political committee
517 shall return any funds remaining in the account of the committee to the
518 organization's treasury after payment of each outstanding liability.
519 [Within] Not later than seven days after the distribution and payments
520 have been made, the treasurer shall file a statement with the same
521 repository itemizing each such distribution and payment. Upon such
522 filing, the treasurer may receive voluntary contributions from any
523 member of the organization which established such committee subject
524 to the limitations imposed in subsection (b) of section 9-612, as amended
525 by this act.

526 (c) The chairperson of each political committee established by an
527 organization on or after July 1, 1985, shall designate the manner in
528 which the committee shall be funded in the committee's statement of
529 organization.

530 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an organization [,
531 acting alone,] may make independent expenditures and contributions
532 to an independent expenditure political committee.

533 Sec. 12. Section 9-615 of the general statutes is repealed and the
534 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

535 (a) [No] A political committee established by an organization shall
536 not make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of, any
537 candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or for election to the
538 office of: (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars; (2) Lieutenant
539 Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney
540 General, in excess of three thousand dollars; (3) chief executive officer
541 of a town, city or borough, in excess of one thousand five hundred
542 dollars; (4) state senator or probate judge, in excess of one thousand five
543 hundred dollars; (5) state representative, in excess of seven hundred
544 fifty dollars; or (6) any other office of a municipality not previously
545 included in this subsection, in excess of three hundred seventy-five
546 dollars.

547 (b) [No such] A political committee established by an organization
548 shall not make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of,
549 an exploratory committee, in excess of three hundred seventy-five
550 dollars. [Any such] A political committee established by an organization
551 may make unlimited contributions to a political committee formed
552 solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question.

553 (c) The limits imposed by subsection (a) of this section shall apply
554 separately to primaries and elections and no such committee shall make
555 contributions to the candidates designated in this section which in the
556 aggregate exceed fifty thousand dollars for any single election and
557 primary preliminary thereto.

558 (d) [No] Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a political
559 committee established by an organization shall not make contributions
560 in any one calendar year to, or for the benefit of, (1) the state central
561 committee of a political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred
562 dollars; (2) a town committee, in excess of one thousand five hundred
563 dollars; or (3) any political committee, other than an exploratory
564 committee or a committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
565 or defeat of a referendum question, in excess of two thousand dollars.

566 (e) Contributions to a political committee established by an
567 organization shall be subject to the provisions of section 9-618, as
568 amended by this act, in the case of a committee formed for ongoing
569 political activity or section 9-619, as amended by this act, in the case of
570 a committee formed for a single election or primary.

571 (f) An independent expenditure political committee established by an
572 organization shall not make any contribution unless such contribution
573 is to another independent expenditure political committee.

574 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 9-618 of the general statutes is
575 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
576 *passage*):

577 (a) (1) A political committee organized for ongoing political activities

578 may make unlimited contributions to, or for the benefit of, any national
579 committee of a political party [;] or [a] any committee of a candidate for
580 federal or out-of-state office. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of
581 subsection (d) of this section, no such political committee shall make a
582 contribution or contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to
583 another political committee in any calendar year. No political committee
584 organized for ongoing political activities shall make a contribution in
585 excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory
586 committee. If such an ongoing committee is established by an
587 organization or a business entity, its contributions shall be subject to the
588 limits imposed by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this
589 act. A political committee organized for ongoing political activities may
590 make [contributions] donations to a charitable organization which is a
591 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
592 Code, as amended from time to time, [amended,] or make memorial
593 [contributions] donations.

594 (2) An independent expenditure political committee organized for
595 ongoing political activities shall not make any contribution unless such
596 contribution is to another independent expenditure political committee.

597 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 9-619 of the general statutes is
598 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
599 *passage*):

600 (a) [No] (1) A political committee established for a single primary or
601 election shall not make contributions to a national committee, or a
602 committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office. If such a
603 political committee is established by an organization or a business
604 entity, its contributions shall also be subject to the limitations imposed
605 by sections 9-613 to 9-615, inclusive, as amended by this act. Except as
606 provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, [no] a
607 political committee [formed] established for a single election or primary
608 shall not, with respect to such election or primary, make a contribution
609 or contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to another political
610 committee, provided [no such] a political committee established for a

611 single election or primary shall not make a contribution in excess of
612 three hundred seventy-five dollars to an exploratory committee.

613 (2) An independent expenditure political committee established for a
614 single primary or election shall not make any contribution unless such
615 contribution is to another independent expenditure political committee.

616 Sec. 15. Section 9-620 of the general statutes is repealed and the
617 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

618 (a) [A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
619 or defeat of a referendum question shall not make contributions to, or
620 for the benefit of, a party committee, a political committee, a national
621 committee, a committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office
622 or a candidate committee, except in the distribution of a surplus, as
623 provided in subsection (e) of section 9-608.] Subject to the provisions of
624 this chapter, any person may establish an independent expenditure
625 political committee that may only make expenditures without the
626 consent, coordination or consultation of a candidate or agent of the
627 candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political
628 committee. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, any such
629 independent expenditure political committee may accept contributions
630 from any person.

631 (b) [A political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success
632 or defeat of a referendum question shall not receive contributions from
633 a national committee or from a committee of a candidate for federal or
634 out-of-state office.] Any person may establish an independent
635 expenditure political committee solely to aid or promote the success or
636 defeat of a single referendum question, or of multiple referendum
637 questions submitted to a vote on the same date. Such committee may
638 only make independent expenditures to aid or promote the success or
639 defeat of a single referendum question, or of multiple referendum
640 questions submitted to a vote on the same date. Subject to the provisions
641 of this chapter, such committee may accept contributions from any
642 person.

643 (c) [No person, other than an individual or a committee, shall make a
644 contribution to a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the
645 success or defeat of a referendum question, or to any other person, to
646 aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, in excess
647 of ten cents for each individual residing in the state or political
648 subdivision thereof in which such referendum question is to be voted
649 upon, in accordance with the last federal decennial census.] Except as
650 provided in this section, an independent expenditure political
651 committee shall not make contributions to, or for the benefit of, a party
652 committee, a political committee, a national committee, a committee of
653 a candidate for federal or out-of-state office or a candidate committee.

654 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an independent
655 expenditure political committee may make contributions to another
656 independent expenditure political committee, make donations to any
657 organization which is a tax-exempt organization under Sections
658 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended from
659 time to time, and refund contributions to contributors.

660 Sec. 16. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-621 of the general statutes
661 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
662 *from passage*):

663 (c) (1) No business entity, organization, association, committee, or
664 group of two or more individuals who have joined solely to promote the
665 success or defeat of a referendum question shall make or incur any
666 expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication
667 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless
668 such communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words
669 "paid for by" and the following: [(1)] (A) In the case of a business entity,
670 organization or association, the name of the business entity,
671 organization or association and the name of its chief executive officer or
672 equivalent, and in the case such communication is made during the
673 ninety-day period immediately prior to the referendum, such
674 communication shall also bear on its face the names of the five persons
675 who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to such business

676 entity, organization or association during the twelve-month period
677 immediately prior to such referendum. The communication shall also
678 state that additional information about the business entity, organization
679 or association making such communication may be found on the State
680 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site; [(2)] (B) in the
681 case of a political committee, the name of the committee and the name
682 of its treasurer; [(3)] (C) in the case of a party committee, the name of the
683 committee; or [(4)] (D) in the case of such a group of two or more
684 individuals, the name of the group and the name and address of its
685 agent.

686 (2) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for:

687 (A) A video broadcast by television, satellite or Internet which
688 promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless such
689 video is accompanied by the disclaimer described in subdivision (2) of
690 subsection (h) of this section;

691 (B) An audio communication broadcast by radio, satellite or Internet
692 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless
693 such audio communication is accompanied by the disclaimer described
694 in subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of this section; and

695 (C) Telephone calls which promote the success or defeat of any
696 referendum question unless such telephone calls are accompanied by
697 the disclaimer described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this
698 section.

699 (d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section do not
700 apply to (1) any editorial, news story, or commentary published in any
701 newspaper, magazine or journal on its own behalf and upon its own
702 responsibility and for which it does not charge or receive any
703 compensation whatsoever, (2) any banner, (3) political paraphernalia
704 including pins, buttons, badges, emblems, hats, bumper stickers or
705 other similar materials, or (4) signs with a surface area of not more than
706 thirty-two square feet.

707 Sec. 17. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 9-621 of the general
708 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
709 (*Effective from passage*):

710 (h) (1) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for
711 any written, typed or other printed communication, including on a
712 billboard, or any web-based, written communication, which promotes
713 the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a
714 primary or for election, unless such communication bears upon its face,
715 as a disclaimer, the words "Paid for by" and the name of such person
716 and the following statement: "This message was made independent of
717 any candidate or political party.". In the case of a person making or
718 incurring such an independent expenditure during the ninety-day
719 period immediately prior to the primary or election for which the
720 independent expenditure is made, such communication shall also bear
721 upon its face the names of the five persons who made the five largest
722 aggregate covered transfers to the person making such communication
723 during the twelve-month period immediately prior to such primary or
724 election, as applicable. The communication shall also state that
725 additional information about the person making such communication
726 may be found on the State Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet
727 web site.

728 Sec. 18. Subsection (i) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
729 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
730 *passage*):

731 (i) In any [print, television or social media promotion of a slate of]
732 organization expenditure for a party candidate listing of a candidate or
733 candidates by a party committee, [the party] legislative caucus
734 committee or legislative leadership committee, such committee shall use
735 applicable disclaimers pursuant to the provisions of this section for such
736 promotion, and no individual candidate disclaimers shall be required.

737 Sec. 19. Subsection (l) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
738 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
739 *passage*):

740 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no person making
741 an independent expenditure for a communication shall be required to
742 list as part of any disclaimer pursuant to this section any person whose
743 covered transfers to the maker of the communication are not in an
744 aggregate amount of five thousand dollars or more during the twelve-
745 month period immediately prior to the primary, [or] election or
746 referendum, as applicable, for which such independent expenditure is
747 made.

748 Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-7a of the general
749 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
750 (*Effective from passage*):

751 (g) (1) (A) In the case of a written complaint filed with the commission
752 pursuant to section 9-7b, commission staff shall conduct and complete a
753 preliminary examination of such complaint by the fourteenth day
754 following its receipt, at which time such staff shall, at its discretion, (i)
755 dismiss the complaint for failure to allege any substantial violation of
756 state election law supported by evidence, (ii) engage the respondent in
757 discussions in an effort to speedily resolve any matter pertaining to a de
758 minimis violation, or (iii) investigate and docket the complaint for a
759 determination by the commission that [probable cause or no probable
760 cause] reason to believe or no reason to believe exists for any such
761 violation. If commission staff dismisses a complaint pursuant to
762 subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, such staff shall provide a brief
763 written statement concisely setting forth the reasons for such dismissal.
764 If commission staff engages a respondent pursuant to subparagraph
765 (A)(ii) of this subdivision but is unable to speedily resolve any such
766 matter described in said subparagraph by the forty-fifth day following
767 receipt of the complaint, such staff shall docket such complaint for a
768 determination by the commission that [probable cause or no probable
769 cause] reason to believe or no reason to believe exists for any violation
770 of state election law. If the commission does not, by the sixtieth day
771 following receipt of the complaint, either issue a decision or render its
772 determination that [probable cause or no probable cause] reason to
773 believe or no reason to believe exists for any violation of state election

774 laws, the complainant or respondent may apply to the superior court for
775 the judicial district of Hartford for an order to show cause why the
776 commission has not acted upon the complaint and to provide evidence
777 that the commission has unreasonably delayed action.

778 (B) (i) For any complaint received on or after January 1, 2018, but prior
779 to July 1, 2025, if the commission does not, by one year following receipt
780 of such complaint, issue a decision thereon, the commission shall
781 dismiss such complaint, provided the length of time of any delay caused
782 by (I) the commission or commission staff granting any extension or
783 continuance to a respondent prior to the issuance of any such decision,
784 (II) any subpoena issued in connection with such complaint, (III) any
785 litigation in state or federal court related to such complaint, or (IV) any
786 investigation by, or consultation of the commission or commission staff
787 with, the Chief State's Attorney, the Attorney General, the United States
788 Department of Justice or the United States Attorney for Connecticut
789 related to such complaint, shall be added to such one year.

790 (ii) For any complaint received on or after July 1, 2025, if the
791 commission does not, by one year following receipt of such complaint,
792 find reason to believe that a violation of state election law has been
793 committed and commence a contested case, as defined in section 4-166,
794 the commission shall dismiss such complaint, provided the length of
795 time of any delay caused by (I) the commission or commission staff
796 granting any extension or continuance to a respondent prior to the
797 issuance of any such decision, (II) any subpoena issued in connection
798 with such complaint, (III) any litigation in state or federal court related
799 to such complaint, (IV) any investigation by the commission or
800 commission staff involving a potential violation of section 9-601c or 9-
801 601d, as amended by this act, or (V) any investigation by, or consultation
802 of the commission or commission staff with, the Chief State's Attorney,
803 the Attorney General, the United States Department of Justice or the
804 United States Attorney for Connecticut related to such complaint, shall
805 be added to such one year.

806 [(ii)] (iii) The provisions of [subparagraph (B)(i)] subparagraphs (B)(i)

807 and (B)(ii) of this subdivision shall not apply to any complaint received
808 on or after July 1, 2024, that relates to a potential violation of state
809 election law by a foreign national.

810 (C) For any complaint received on or after July 1, 2024, if the
811 commission does not, by the ninetieth day following the commission's
812 determination that [probable cause] reason to believe exists for any
813 violation of state election laws, issue a decision on such complaint, the
814 commission shall refer such complaint to the Chief State's Attorney
815 pursuant to subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b for further
816 enforcement action. Not later than twelve months after the referral to
817 the Chief State's Attorney of any complaint under this subdivision, or
818 not later than the expiration of the period of time prescribed by section
819 54-193 for the violation of state election laws alleged in any such
820 complaint, whichever occurs first, the Chief State's Attorney shall
821 submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General
822 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections and the
823 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, detailing
824 the status of any enforcement action related to such referred complaint.

825 Sec. 21. Subdivision (18) of section 53a-119 of the general statutes is
826 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
827 *passage*):

828 (18) Failure to repay surplus Citizens' Election Fund grant funds. A
829 person is guilty of failure to repay surplus Citizens' Election Fund grant
830 funds when such person fails to return to the Citizens' Election Fund
831 any surplus funds from a grant made pursuant to sections 9-700 to 9-
832 716, inclusive, [not later than ninety days after the primary or election
833 for which the grant is made] within the time prescribed for the
834 distribution of surplus under subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section
835 9-608, as amended by this act.

836 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 9-704 of the general statutes is
837 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
838 *passage*):

839 (a) The amount of qualifying contributions that the candidate
840 committee of a candidate shall be required to receive in order to be
841 eligible for grants from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be:

842 (1) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
843 of Governor, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of
844 two hundred fifty thousand dollars, [of which] including contributions
845 in the aggregate amount of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
846 [or more is contributed by] from at least two thousand two hundred fifty
847 individuals residing in the state, except that in the case of a primary or
848 election held in 2022, or thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts
849 shall be first adjusted under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
850 section and then rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars
851 with exactly fifty dollars rounded upward. The provisions of this
852 subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A) Except as provided in
853 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision and subsection (g) of section 9-610,
854 (i) on and after January 1, 2019, the candidate committee shall return the
855 portion of any contribution or contributions from any individual,
856 including said candidate, that exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii)
857 any such excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the
858 aggregate contribution amounts under this subdivision, (B) all
859 contributions received by (i) an exploratory committee established by
860 said candidate, or (ii) an exploratory committee or candidate committee
861 of a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor who is deemed to
862 be jointly campaigning with a candidate for nomination or election to
863 the office of Governor under subsection (a) of section 9-709, which meet
864 the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under
865 this section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution
866 amounts, and (C) in the case of a primary or election held in 2022, or
867 thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual
868 contribution amount provided in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision
869 shall be first adjusted under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this
870 section and then rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars with
871 exactly five dollars rounded upward, provided such adjusted and
872 rounded amount shall not exceed the applicable contribution limit set
873 forth in subsection (a) of section 9-611, as amended by this act.

874 (2) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
875 of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State
876 Treasurer or Secretary of the State, contributions from individuals in the
877 aggregate amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, [of which]
878 including contributions in the aggregate amount of sixty-seven
879 thousand five hundred dollars [or more is contributed by] from at least
880 six hundred seventy-five individuals residing in the state, except that in
881 the case of a primary or election for Lieutenant Governor held in 2022,
882 or thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts shall be first adjusted
883 under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and then rounded
884 to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars
885 rounded upward and in the case of a primary or election for Attorney
886 General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held
887 in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts shall be first
888 adjusted under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section and then
889 rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty
890 dollars rounded upward. The provisions of this subdivision shall be
891 subject to the following: (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of
892 this subdivision and subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after
893 January 1, 2019, the candidate committee shall return the portion of any
894 contribution or contributions from any individual, including said
895 candidate, that exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such
896 excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate
897 contribution amounts under this subdivision, (B) all contributions
898 received by an exploratory committee established by said candidate that
899 meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees
900 under this section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate
901 contribution amounts, and (C) in the case of a primary or election held
902 in 2022, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum
903 individual contribution amount provided in subparagraph (A) of this
904 subdivision shall be first adjusted under subdivision (1) of subsection
905 (c) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars
906 with exactly five dollars rounded upward, provided such adjusted and
907 rounded amount shall not exceed the applicable contribution limit set
908 forth in subsection (a) of section 9-611, as amended by this act.

909 (3) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
910 of state senator for a district, contributions from individuals in the
911 aggregate amount of fifteen thousand dollars, including contributions
912 from at least three hundred individuals residing in municipalities
913 included, in whole or in part, in said district, except that in the case of a
914 primary or election held in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate
915 contribution amount shall be first adjusted under subdivision (3) of
916 subsection (b) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple
917 of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars rounded upward. The
918 provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A)
919 Except as provided in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision and
920 subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after December 1, 2017, the
921 candidate committee shall return the portion of any contribution or
922 contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that
923 exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such excess portion shall
924 not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
925 under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the
926 purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions
927 from at least three hundred individuals residing in municipalities
928 included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is
929 five dollars or more, [and] (C) all contributions received by an
930 exploratory committee established by said candidate that meet the
931 criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this
932 section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution
933 amount under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee
934 contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for
935 contributions from at least three hundred individuals residing in
936 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be
937 counted for the purposes of said requirement, and (D) in the case of a
938 primary or election held in 2020, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-
939 dollar maximum individual contribution amount provided in
940 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be adjusted under
941 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and then rounded to the
942 nearest multiple of ten dollars with exactly five dollars rounded
943 upward, provided such adjusted and rounded amount shall not exceed

944 the applicable contribution limit set forth in subsection (a) of section 9-
945 611, as amended by this act.

946 (4) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office
947 of state representative for a district, contributions from individuals in
948 the aggregate amount of five thousand dollars, including contributions
949 from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in municipalities
950 included, in whole or in part, in said district, except that in the case of a
951 primary or election held in 2018, or thereafter, the aggregate
952 contribution amount shall be first adjusted under subdivision (3) of
953 subsection (b) of this section and then rounded to the nearest multiple
954 of one hundred dollars with exactly fifty dollars rounded upward. The
955 provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A)
956 Except as provided in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision and
957 subsection (g) of section 9-610, (i) on and after December 1, 2017, the
958 candidate committee shall return the portion of any contribution or
959 contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that
960 exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, and (ii) any such excess portion shall
961 not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
962 under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the
963 purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions
964 from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in municipalities
965 included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is
966 five dollars or more, (C) all contributions received by an exploratory
967 committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for
968 qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section
969 shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount
970 under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee
971 contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for
972 contributions from at least one hundred fifty individuals residing in
973 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be
974 counted for the purposes of said requirement, and (D) in the case of a
975 primary or election held in 2020, or thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-
976 dollar maximum individual contribution amount provided in
977 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be adjusted under
978 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and then rounded to the

979 nearest multiple of ten dollars with exactly five dollars rounded
 980 upward, provided such adjusted and rounded amount shall not exceed
 981 the applicable contribution limit set forth in subsection (a) of section 9-
 982 611, as amended by this act.

983 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (3) and (4) of this
 984 subsection, in the case of a special election for the office of state senator
 985 or state representative for a district, (A) the aggregate amount of
 986 qualifying contributions that the candidate committee of a candidate for
 987 such office shall be required to receive in order to be eligible for a grant
 988 from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be seventy-five per cent or more
 989 of the corresponding amount required under the applicable said
 990 subdivision (3) or (4), as adjusted and rounded pursuant to the
 991 applicable provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (B) the
 992 number of contributions required from individuals residing in
 993 municipalities included, in whole or in part, in said district shall be
 994 seventy-five per cent or more of the corresponding number required
 995 under the applicable said subdivision (3) or (4).

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(39)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(3)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-601c(e)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-601d(a) to (i)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-605(b)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-607(g)(1)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-608(e)(1)(C)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	9-611
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	9-612(a) and (b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-613
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	9-614
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	9-615
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	9-618(a)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	9-619(a)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	9-620
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(c) and (d)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(h)(1)

Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(i)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	9-621(l)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	9-7a(g)(1)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	53a-119(18)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	9-704(a)

GOS *Joint Favorable*

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 \$	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Resources of the Citizen's Election Fund	CEF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund CEF= Citizens' Election Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of changes regarding campaign finance and election laws including independent expenditures and political action committees resulting in the fiscal impacts outlined below.

Section 4, raises existing campaign finance reporting thresholds and makes a variety of changes around disclosures and campaign filings and increases the civil penalties that the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) may impose resulting in potential revenue to the resources of the general fund. The bill increases the maximum penalty for failing to report an independent expenditure from \$10,000 to \$20,000 or twice the amount of the unreported independent expenditure. The bill also raises existing penalties for willful failure to file from a maximum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 or ten times the unreported independent expenditure. The potential revenue will depend on the total number of violations and the penalties imposed.

This section additionally expands what may be considered a false statement, which results in potential revenue gain to the General Fund

from fines. Few, if any, additional violations are expected to occur.

Section 22, creates an additional requirement that candidates participating in the Citizen's Election Program (CEP) receive a number of qualifying contributions from in-state residents resulting in potential minimal savings for the resources of the Citizens' Election Fund. The exact impact will depend on the number of candidates who would no longer qualify for grants because of this provision.

The remaining sections of the bill make a variety of changes that result in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of penalties imposed.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 7093*****AN ACT CONCERNING REFERENDA, INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND OTHER CAMPAIGN FINANCE CHANGES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill changes laws affecting campaign finance and elections, including independent expenditures (IE) and political action committees (PAC). Principally, it does the following:

1. codifies “independent expenditure political committee” (known as an IE-only PAC) as a type of PAC and requires IE-only PACs to register with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) (§§ 1-3, 6, 7 & 9-15);
2. classifies referendum PACs as IE-only PACs and makes conforming changes (§ 15);
3. expands IE disclosure requirements (§ 4);
4. increases the maximum penalties for failing to file IE reports (§ 4);
5. modifies PAC registration requirements, including expanding the contents of the registration statement (§ 5);
6. in conformity with current practice, eliminates aggregate individual contribution limits to certain committees (§ 8);
7. expands disclaimer requirements for referenda and party candidate listings (§§ 16-19);
8. narrows the circumstances under which SEEC must dismiss a complaint within one year after receiving it (§ 20);

9. modifies the deadline by which a person must return surplus funds from the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) before he or she is guilty of larceny (§ 21);
10. requires statewide candidates seeking to participate in the Citizen's Election Program (CEP) to receive a certain number of in-state contributions (§ 22); and
11. caps the inflation adjustments to CEP qualifying contributions (QCs) to match the limit generally applicable under the state's campaign finance laws (§ 22).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1-3, 6, 7 & 9-15 — IE-ONLY PACS

The law authorizes persons (including individuals, entities, and committees) to make unlimited IEs and defines "independent expenditure" as an expenditure made without the consent, coordination, or consultation of a (1) candidate or candidate's agent, (2) candidate committee, (3) PAC, or (4) party committee (CGS § 9-601c).

The bill codifies "independent expenditure political committee" (known as an IE-only PAC) as a type of PAC under Connecticut's campaign finance laws and, like for other committees that make IEs, requires their registration with SEEC. It defines them as PACs that make only (1) IEs and (2) contributions to other IE-only PACs (see BACKGROUND). It also allows these PACs to (1) coordinate with other IE-only PACs to make IEs and (2) make donations to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) and 501(c)(19) (veterans) organizations and refund contributor contributions.

The bill makes several conforming changes, including specifying that (1) individuals, business entities, and labor unions may make contributions to IE-only PACs and (2) various types of IE-only PACs, such as those formed for a single election or primary, may not make

contributions except to other IE-only PACs. It also classifies referendum PACs as IE-only PACs.

Lawful Purposes (§ 6)

The bill defines “lawful purposes of the committee” for IE-only PACs as promoting the following:

1. a political party,
2. the success or defeat of candidates for nomination or election to a public office or position regulated by state campaign finance laws, or
3. the success or defeat of referendum questions.

It also expands the “lawful purposes of the committee” for party committees to include promoting the success or defeat of referendum questions. Existing law generally allows PACs to pay specific expenses to accomplish their lawful purposes.

Surplus Distributions (§ 7)

By law, candidate committees and PACs, other than exploratory committees or PACs organized for ongoing political activities, must generally spend or distribute surplus funds (1) within 90 days after (a) a primary when a candidate loses or (b) an election or referendum not held in November or (2) by March 31 following an election or a referendum held in November.

The bill establishes a surplus distribution procedure for IE-only PACs, other than those formed for ongoing activities. Specifically, it requires them to distribute surplus funds, according to the schedule outlined above, to (1) their contributors, on a prorated basis; (2) state or municipal governments or agencies; or (3) tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations.

Referendum PACs (§§ 7 & 15)

The bill classifies referendum PACs as IE-only PACs and makes conforming changes. Specifically, it allows any person to establish an IE-

only PAC for a single referendum question or multiple questions submitted to a vote on the same day. Under the bill, the committee may make IEs only for these purposes.

Relatedly, the bill eliminates provisions in current law that establish surplus distributions for referendum PACs and instead subjects them to the bill's procedure for IE-only PACs.

§ 4 — REPORTING IES AND COVERED TRANSFERS

Under current law, a person must disclose information about IEs they make that exceed \$1,000 in the aggregate by filing certain reports. A "person" is an individual, committee, firm, partnership, organization, association, syndicate, company trust, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity (other than the state or its political or administrative subdivisions) (CGS § 9-601(10)).

The bill does the following:

1. changes the period during which IE disclosure reports are subject to a 24-hour electronic filing deadline;
2. expands disclosure requirements for persons that make IEs without forming a PAC (known as "incidental spenders");
3. extends the law's covered transfer requirements to IEs related to certain referenda and generally expands an exemption to these requirements;
4. increases the maximum penalties for failing to file IE reports; and
5. conforms law to practice by requiring that, to disclose IEs, (a) incidental spenders use SEEC's long- and short-form reports and (b) PACs, including IE-only PACs, use SEEC's campaign finance forms for PACs formed in Connecticut.

As under existing law, IEs made for or against (1) statewide office or legislative candidates, or statewide referenda, must be filed with SEEC and (2) municipal office candidates or municipal referenda must be filed

with town clerks.

24-Hour Report Filing Deadline

Under current law, a person must electronically file a disclosure report within 24 hours after making or obligating to make an IE during a primary or general election campaign that exceeds \$1,000 in the aggregate and promotes the success or defeat of a statewide office or legislative candidate.

The bill applies the 24-hour electronic filing requirement to these IEs made or obligated to be made during the period (1) beginning June 1 in a regular election year or, in the case of a special election for state senator or state representative, the day the governor issues writs of election, and (2) ending on the day after the primary or general election for which the IE is made or incurred. In the case of a special election, a person that makes or obligates to make an IE that exceeds \$1,000 in the aggregate before the governor issues the writs must electronically file the IE report within 24 hours after the governor issues the writs.

Additionally, the bill applies the 24-hour reporting requirement to IEs within this timeframe that promote the success or defeat of a referendum question proposing a constitutional amendment, convention, or revision.

For any other IEs (those not subject to 24-hour reporting requirements), the bill requires that IE reports be filed according to the same schedule as the periodic statements filed by PACs.

Disclosures by Incidental Spenders

Existing law requires persons, other than PACs (as described above), to disclose information about IEs they make using SEEC's long- and short-form reports (i.e. SEEC Form 26) (see BACKGROUND). The bill adds to the information that these IE-makers must disclose in these reports.

Under the bill, for a long-form report, they must additionally disclose, for a referendum, its date, the question's text, and whether the

IE supported or opposed it. For the short-form report, it must also disclose, for a referendum, the question's text and the allocation of the expenditure in support of or opposition to it.

Disclosing Covered Transfers. As part of both the long- and short-form reports, the law requires a person to disclose the source and amount of any covered transfer of \$5,000 or more, in the aggregate, received during the 12 months before the applicable primary or election if the IE for which the report is being filed is made or obligated to be made 180 days or less before the primary or election. The bill extends the requirement to covered transfers made to promote or oppose a referendum question proposing a constitutional amendment, convention, or revision.

The law exempts from this disclosure requirement a person that discloses the source and amount of a covered transfer in a report it files with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) or the IRS, as long as the person includes a copy of the report in the statement it files with SEEC. The bill extends this exemption to (1) apply to similar out-of-state agency reports and (2) persons that include information sufficient for SEEC to find their out-of-state, FEC, or IRS filing in their IE reports.

Under current law, if a person makes the IE from a dedicated IE account, the IE report and disclaimer (see below) may include only persons that made covered transfers to it directly. The bill requires the report and disclaimer to include this information but removes a provision limiting it to only this information.

By law, a "covered transfer" is, with certain exceptions, any donation, transfer, or payment of funds by a person to a recipient that (1) makes IEs or (2) transfers funds to another person that makes IEs (CGS § 9-601(29)).

Penalties for Failure to File an IE Report

The bill increases the maximum civil penalties SEEC may impose for failure to file certain required IE reports. It also subjects IEs that support or oppose referendum questions to these penalties.

Specifically, existing law allows SEEC to impose a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for failing to file a report for an IE that is made or obligated more than 90 days before a primary or general election. The bill extends this penalty and the penalties described below to IEs that support or oppose a referendum.

For IEs made or obligated 90 days or fewer before a primary or general election, SEEC may currently impose a maximum penalty of \$20,000 for failing to file a report. The bill instead allows SEEC to impose a penalty of up to \$20,000 or twice the amount of any unreported IE, including for a referendum, whichever is greater.

Currently, a knowing and willful failure to file an IE report is punishable by an additional fine of up to \$50,000. The bill instead allows SEEC to impose an additional civil penalty of up to \$50,000 or 10 times the amount of any unreported expenditure, whichever is greater.

In addition, the bill establishes personal liability for a civil penalty that remains unpaid after the later of one year after the date when (1) SEEC imposed it or (2) a court issues a final judgment following any appeal of SEEC's action. Specifically, the bill makes the following individuals personally liable:

1. in the case of a committee, the chairperson and any officer, or
2. in the case of a person other than a committee, (a) the CEO, CFO, or equivalent; (b) any other officer; and (c) any manager who had direct, extensive, and substantive decision-making authority over the IE or IEs made or obligated to be made.

§ 5 — PAC REGISTRATIONS

By law, most PACs must register with SEEC and designate a treasurer. They may also designate a deputy treasurer. The registration statement must include, among other things, the committee's name and purpose.

The bill expands the required contents of the PAC registration

statement. Under current law, for a committee that files reports with the FEC or an out-of-state agency, the registration must include a statement to that effect and the agency's name. The bill expands this provision to include reports filed with the IRS and requires the statement to include identifying information under which those filings are made.

In addition, if a committee is established or controlled by a person or individual acting as an agent for a person, the statement must indicate the person's name. If a committee is established or controlled by a person other than a human being, the statement must indicate the name of the CEO or an equivalent. Current law requires only that a PAC established by a business entity or organization (e.g., a labor union) indicate the name of the entity or organization and, if established by a person other than a human being, a certification that the person making the expenditure is not a foreign national.

§ 8 — AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALS

State law generally limits the amount that individuals may contribute to a specific candidate committee, party committee, or PAC. The bill conforms the law to SEEC practice by eliminating an aggregate limit on certain contributions by an individual. Under this limit, an individual may not contribute more than \$30,000 in the aggregate during a single primary and election to (1) candidate committees, (2) exploratory committees, and (3) slate committees for justice of the peace (in a primary). In practice, SEEC does not enforce this aggregate limit (see BACKGROUND).

§§ 16-19 — POLITICAL ATTRIBUTIONS

IEs and Referenda (§§ 16, 17 & 19)

By law, printed, video, and audio political communications (both IEs and non-IEs) must include certain attributions, known as "disclaimers." Among other things, they must identify the person making the expenditure for the communication.

Under current law, only the disclaimer requirements for written, typed, or other printed communications apply to expenditures made for

a referendum. The bill extends, to IEs promoting a referendum question's success or defeat, existing law's disclaimer requirements for election- and primary-related IEs made for video and audio communications and telephone calls. Generally, each of these disclaimers must (1) include the name of the IE-maker and a statement that the expenditure was made independent of any candidate or political party and (2) state that additional information about the IE-maker is available on SEEC's website.

Additionally, communications made within 90 days before the primary or election must also state the names of the five persons that made the five largest covered transfers to the IE-maker, in the aggregate, during the 12 months immediately before the referendum. As under existing law for other communications, the bill allows disclaimers for referendum IEs to omit any person that made covered transfers to it of less than \$5,000, in the aggregate, during the 12 months immediately before the referendum.

The bill also specifies that, concerning elections and primaries, existing law's disclaimer requirements apply only to those IEs promoting a candidate's success or defeat for nomination or election.

Party Candidate Listings (§ 18)

Current law requires that party committees (i.e. town and state central committees) use the appropriate disclaimer in any print, television, or social media promotion of a slate of candidates (disclaimers by individual candidates are not required). The bill instead requires that organization expenditures for party candidate listings by a party committee, legislative caucus committee, or legislative leadership committee use the appropriate disclaimer.

By law, a "party candidate listing" is a communication that (1) lists the name or names of candidates for election; (2) is distributed through public advertising (e.g., cable television, newspapers, or similar media), direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible Internet sites, or personal delivery; and (3) is made to promote the success or defeat of

a candidate or slate of candidates seeking nomination or election, or to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question or a political party. The communication may not be a solicitation for or on behalf of a candidate committee (CGS § 9-601(25)(A)).

§ 20 — SEEC INVESTIGATIONS

By law, SEEC receives complaints from the secretary of the state, registrars of voters, town clerks, and individuals under oath about alleged election law violations. It investigates and holds hearings as it deems appropriate (CGS § 9-7b(a)(1)). The bill (1) lowers the statutory standard required for the commission to determine a violation exists and (2) narrows the circumstances under which SEEC must dismiss a complaint within one year after receiving it.

Standards for Investigating and Docketing

Under existing law, SEEC staff are required to evaluate written complaints it receives and determine whether or not to, among other resolutions, investigate and docket a complaint for a determination by the commission. Currently, the commission must determine if probable cause of a violation does or does not exist. The bill instead requires SEEC, in conformance with existing practice, to determine if it has reason, or no reason, to believe a violation exists.

After SEEC makes a determination about a violation, it generally may (1) initiate a contested case under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, (2) refer the matter to the chief state's attorney's office for criminal prosecution, (3) attempt to informally resolve the matter, or (4) dismiss it. (SEEC regulations generally prohibit the commission from proceeding with a contested case unless it finds, by a majority vote of a quorum, reason to believe that a violation occurred (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 9-7b-35).)

Time Limit

Currently, SEEC must dismiss a complaint it receives on or after January 1, 2018, if it does not issue a final decision within one year after receiving the complaint. However, the deadline must be extended if

specified actions delay the final decision's issuance.

The bill relaxes this requirement for SEEC complaints received on or after July 1, 2025. It instead requires the commission to dismiss after one year any complaint for which it has not (1) found reason to believe a state election law violation occurred and (2) initiated a contested case proceeding.

The bill also (1) requires that the deadline for making this finding be extended for the same reasons that the final decision deadline must be extended under current law and (2) establishes an additional reason for extending this deadline (see below). As under current law, the one-year deadline must be extended by the length of the delay.

Extensions

Under current law, the one-year deadline for SEEC to issue a final decision must be extended if its issuance is delayed for any of the following reasons:

1. extension or continuance granted to a respondent by SEEC or its staff before issuing the decision;
2. issuance of a subpoena in connection with the complaint;
3. litigation in state or federal court related to the complaint; or
4. any investigation by, or consultation with, the chief state's attorney, attorney general, U.S. Department of Justice, or U.S. attorney for Connecticut.

The bill similarly requires an extension, for these same reasons, of the one-year deadline for finding reason to believe that an election law violation occurred and initiating a contested case. The bill also requires an extension if the finding and commencement are delayed because of an investigation by SEEC or its staff involving a potential IE violation.

§ 21 — FAILURE TO RETURN SURPLUS CEF FUNDS

By law, candidates participating in the Citizens' Election Program

receive a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF). Under current law, a person is guilty of larceny if he or she does not repay surplus CEF funds within 90 days following the election or primary for which the grant is made.

The bill instead aligns this deadline with state campaign finance law's deadline for distributing surplus funds (see § 7 above). The campaign finance law sets several surplus distribution deadlines that exceed 90 days after an election or primary.

§ 22 — CEP QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION DONORS

By law, the CEP is the state's voluntary public campaign financing system and is available to statewide and legislative office candidates. Candidates qualify for the CEP by raising an aggregate amount of qualifying contributions (QCs), which must come from individual donors. The bill requires that CEP candidates for (1) governor receive QCs from at least 2,250 in-state residents and (2) other statewide offices receive QCs from at least 675 in-state residents. Current law does not set a minimum number of contributors for these offices.

Under existing law, individual QC amounts range from \$5 to \$250, and the inflation-adjusted maximum for the 2024 election was \$320. The bill caps inflation adjustments to maximum QC amounts at the broadly applicable limits for contributions by an individual for the relevant office set in state campaign finance law. Under existing law, these limits are (1) \$3,500 for governor; (2) \$2,000 for other statewide offices (i.e. lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and attorney general); (3) \$1,000 for state senator; and (4) \$250 for state representative (CGS § 9-611(a)).

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

SB 515, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, adjusts the timing of inflation adjustments for QCs.

SB 1517, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, makes identical changes.

sSB 1405, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, among other things, amends the definition of organization expenditure and party candidate listing, adjusts the timing of inflation adjustments for QCs, modifies political advertising disclaimer requirements, and restricts the timing of commission actions.

sSB 1409, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, generally requires all municipal campaign finance filings to be filed with SEEC instead of the municipality.

SB 1533, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, makes identical changes as this bill regarding the definition of “organization expenditure” and adjusts the timing of inflation adjustments for QCs.

sHB 7089, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, amends the definition of “organization expenditure” and adjusts the timing of inflation adjustments for QCs.

sHB 7221, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, generally requires all municipal campaign finance filings to be filed with SEEC instead of the municipality.

HB 7222, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, among other things, makes identical changes as this bill regarding the definition of “organization expenditure” and adjusts the timing of inflation adjustments for QCs.

sHB 7246, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, among other things, amends the definitions of “organization expenditure” and “solicit.”

Aggregate Contribution Limits

In *McCutcheon et al. v. Federal Election Commission*, 134 S. Ct. 1434 (2014), the U.S. Supreme Court held that aggregate limits on contributions by individuals to federal candidates, political parties, and PACs were unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

In Advisory Opinion 2014-03, SEEC announced that, unless it received further guidance from the legislature or a court of competent

jurisdiction, it would no longer enforce current law’s \$30,000 aggregate limit on contributions by individuals during a single primary and election to (1) candidate committees, (2) exploratory committees, and (3) slate committees for justice of the peace (in a primary).

IE-Only PACs

In Declaratory Ruling 2013-02, SEEC ruled that, in light of a line of cases ruling that contribution limits to IE-only PACs are unconstitutional, it would no longer enforce limits on contributions to PACs that receive and spend funds only for IEs unless it received further guidance from the legislature or a court.

Long- and Short-Form IE Reports

As part of these reports, a person must disclose the source and amount of any covered transfer of \$5,000 or more in the aggregate that it received during the 12 months before the applicable primary or election. This requirement applies if the IE for which the report is being filed is made or obligated to be made 180 days or less before the primary or election (CGS § 9-601d(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 1 (03/18/2025)