Government Oversight Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7089
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.
Vote Date: 3/18/2025
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/6/2025
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Oversight Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill looks to fix several problems identified by the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) with the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). First, it defines collectors as individuals appointed by a campaign committee to collect funds; the existing statute refers to this position as a solicitor, yet the statutory definition of a solicitor does not line up with the statutory definition of soliciting. Second, it expands organization expenditures to include fundraisers at which a candidate is present, SEEC believes that this is an oversight in the current statute. Third, it shifts liability from campaign treasurers to consultants who fail to disclose certain information where applicable; this would ensure that the burden of failing to disclose information would be put on the perpetrator of the failure to disclose. Fourth, to make the process of filing easier on campaign committees, it addresses a number of issues with the earliest time to apply for CEP grants regarding both the consumer price index adjustments to the grants and gubernatorial campaigns. Fifth, it ensures that candidates who change their party affiliation after filing for a grant do not receive further disbursements of grant money. Finally, it addresses issues with nonconcurrent timing of grant approvals and consumer price index adjustments.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Shannon Kief: Legal Program Director, State Elections Enforcement Commission:
Ms. Kief explained the State Election Enforcement Commission's reasoning behind the reforms proposed in this bill. First, she explained the difference between a "solicitor" and a "collector" and why statutory clarification is needed. Next, she explained the importance of

campaign treasurers and the need to hold campaign consultants who do not disclose certain pieces of information liable. She also explained the legislative history of organization expenditure rules and how it came to be that organizations are unable to hold fundraisers with a candidate there, and she noted that this bill would allow them to do so again. Finally, she explained some of the issues that arise with the consumer price indexing of Citizens' Election Program grants, and how this bill would address some of the unintended decision-making that arises from the timing of the consumer price indexing.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims **Date: 3/24/2025**