Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5543 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO AGGREGATE AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/23/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/18/2026
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There has been concern if candidates would be able to reach the contribution amounts required for the Citizens' Election Program for them to qualify. This bill seeks to set aggregate contribution amounts under the Citizens' Election Program at their 2022 election cycle levels, eliminate adjustment of such amounts after the 2026 election cycle conclusion and provide that by December 15th following the conclusion of a four-year state officer election cycle or a two-year state legislative election cycle, inflationary adjustments shall apply to the next such election cycle.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Mr. Ryan M. Burns, Executive Director and General Counsel, State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC): This organization feels that this bill will permit increased grants and decreased numbers of contributors, thus displaying less public support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Ms. Pamela Klem, Campaign Finance Specialist, Connecticut League of Women Voters (LWV): They **oppose** this bill, specifically referring to the difference between aggregate and

individual contributions. They feel that this adjustment will allow for contributions to come from fewer individuals and will demonstrate less voter support.

Reported by: Elizabeth Aheart, Clerk **Date: 3/30/2026**