



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 690**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7222

*House of Representatives, April 14, 2025*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (14) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (14) ["Solicitor"] "Collector" means an individual appointed by a  
5 treasurer of a committee to receive, but not to disburse, funds on behalf  
6 of the committee.

7 Sec. 2. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section  
8 9-7b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
9 in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10 (B) To issue an order when the commission finds that an intentional  
11 violation of any provision of chapter 155 or 157 has been committed,  
12 after an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in accordance

13 with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive, which order may contain one or  
14 more of the following sanctions: (i) Removal of a treasurer, deputy  
15 treasurer or [solicitor] collector; (ii) prohibition on serving as a treasurer,  
16 deputy treasurer or [solicitor] collector; and (iii) in the case of a party  
17 committee or a political committee, suspension of all political activities,  
18 including, but not limited to, the receipt of contributions and the making  
19 of expenditures, provided the commission may not order such a  
20 suspension unless the commission has previously ordered the removal  
21 of the treasurer and notifies the officers of the committee that the  
22 commission is considering such suspension;

23 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 9-602 of the general statutes is  
24 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
25 *passage*):

26 (b) No contribution in aid of or in opposition to the candidacy of any  
27 person or to any party or referendum question shall be made at any  
28 time, except to the committee's treasurer whose designation is on file  
29 with the proper authority, a [solicitor] collector or a candidate who is  
30 exempt from the requirement to form a candidate committee and has  
31 filed a certification.

32 Sec. 4. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 9-606 of the general statutes  
33 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
34 *from passage*):

35 (c) The treasurer of each committee, other than a political committee  
36 established by an organization which receives its funds from the  
37 organization's treasury, may appoint [solicitors. If solicitors] collectors.  
38 If collectors are appointed, the treasurer shall receive and report all  
39 contributions made or promised to each [solicitor. Each solicitor]  
40 collector. Each collector shall submit to the treasurer a list of all  
41 contributions made or promised to [him] such collector. The list shall be  
42 complete as of seventy-two hours immediately preceding midnight of  
43 the day preceding the dates on which the treasurer is required to file a  
44 sworn statement as provided in section 9-608. Lists shall be received by  
45 the treasurer not later than twenty-four hours immediately preceding

46 each required filing date. Each [solicitor] collector shall deposit all  
47 contributions with the treasurer, [within] not later than seven days after  
48 receipt. No [solicitor] collector shall expend any contributions received  
49 by [him] such collector or disburse such contributions to any person  
50 other than the treasurer.

51 (d) No person shall act as a treasurer or deputy treasurer (1) unless  
52 the person is an elector of this state, the person has paid any civil  
53 penalties or forfeitures assessed pursuant to chapters 155 to 157,  
54 inclusive, and a statement, signed by the [chairman] chairperson in the  
55 case of a party committee or political committee or by the candidate in  
56 the case of a candidate committee, designating the person as treasurer  
57 or deputy treasurer, has been filed in accordance with section 9-603, and  
58 (2) if such person has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere  
59 to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, any (A) felony involving fraud,  
60 forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery, or (B) criminal offense under  
61 this title, unless at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the  
62 conviction or plea or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is  
63 later, without a subsequent conviction of or plea to another such felony  
64 or offense. In the case of a political committee, the filing of a statement  
65 of organization by the [chairman] chairperson of the committee, in  
66 accordance with the provisions of section 9-605, shall constitute  
67 compliance with the filing requirements of this section. No provision of  
68 this subsection shall prevent the treasurer, deputy treasurer or [solicitor]  
69 collector of any committee from being the treasurer, deputy treasurer or  
70 [solicitor] collector of any other committee or prevent any committee  
71 from having more than one [solicitor] collector, but no candidate shall  
72 have more than one treasurer. A candidate shall not serve as the  
73 candidate's own treasurer or deputy treasurer, except that a candidate  
74 who is exempt from forming a candidate committee under subsection  
75 (b) of section 9-604 and has filed a certification that the candidate is  
76 financing the candidate's campaign from the candidate's own personal  
77 funds or is not receiving or expending in excess of one thousand dollars  
78 may perform the duties of a treasurer for the candidate's own campaign.

79 Sec. 5. Subdivision (25) of section 9-601 of the general statutes is

80 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
81 *passage*):

82 (25) "Organization expenditure" means an expenditure by a party  
83 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
84 committee for the benefit of a candidate or candidate committee for:

85 (A) The preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a  
86 party candidate listing. As used in this subparagraph, "party candidate  
87 listing" means any communication that meets the following criteria: (i)  
88 The communication lists the name or names of candidates for election  
89 to public office, (ii) the communication is distributed through public  
90 advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers or  
91 similar media, or through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail,  
92 publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery, and (iii) the  
93 communication is made to promote the success or defeat of any  
94 candidate or slate of candidates seeking the nomination for election, or  
95 election or for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat  
96 of any referendum question or the success or defeat of any political  
97 party, provided such communication is not a solicitation for or on behalf  
98 of a candidate committee;

99 (B) A document in printed or electronic form, including a party  
100 platform, an electronic page providing merchant account services to be  
101 used by a candidate for the collection of on-line contributions, a copy of  
102 an issue paper, information pertaining to the requirements of this title,  
103 a list of registered voters and voter identification information, which  
104 document is created or maintained by a party committee, legislative  
105 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee for the general  
106 purposes of party or caucus building and is provided (i) to a candidate  
107 who is a member of the party that has established such party committee,  
108 or (ii) to a candidate who is a member of the party of the caucus or leader  
109 who has established such legislative caucus committee or legislative  
110 leadership committee, whichever is applicable;

111 (C) A campaign event at which (i) campaign materials are present  
112 and food or beverage may be provided, but at which no contribution

113 shall be received, solicited or bundled, or (ii) a candidate or candidates  
114 are present; or

115 (D) The retention of the services of an advisor or individual to  
116 provide assistance relating to a candidate's campaign.

117 Sec. 6. Subdivision (9) of subsection (b) of section 9-601c of the general  
118 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
119 (*Effective from passage*):

120 (9) An expenditure made by a person or an entity for consultant or  
121 creative services, including, but not limited to, services related to  
122 communications strategy or design or campaign strategy or to engage a  
123 campaign-related vendor, to be used to promote or oppose a candidate's  
124 election to office if the provider of such services is or has provided  
125 consultant or creative services to such candidate, such candidate's  
126 candidate committee or an agent of such candidate committee, or to any  
127 opposing candidate's candidate committee or an agent of such  
128 candidate committee after January first of the year in which the  
129 expenditure occurs. For purposes of this subdivision, communications  
130 strategy or design does not include the costs of printing or costs for the  
131 use of a medium for the purpose of communications. For purposes of  
132 this subdivision, [campaign-related vendor] "campaign-related vendor"  
133 includes, but is not limited to, a vendor that provides the following  
134 services: [Polling, mail design, mail strategy, political strategy, general  
135 campaign advice or telephone banking] (A) Campaign strategy, (B)  
136 design or management of campaign communications, literature or  
137 advertising, or (C) fundraising or management services, including the  
138 identification, hiring and payment of subvendors for goods or services  
139 on behalf of a committee.

140 Sec. 7. Section 9-622 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
141 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

142 The following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices and shall be  
143 punished in accordance with the provisions of section 9-623:

144       (1) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or by another  
145 person, gives or offers or promises to any person any money, gift,  
146 advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other  
147 valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person to  
148 sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote or refrain  
149 from voting for or against any person or for or against any measure at  
150 any election, caucus, convention, primary or referendum;

151       (2) Any person who, directly or indirectly, receives, accepts, requests  
152 or solicits from any person, committee, association, organization or  
153 corporation, any money, gift, advantage, preferment, aid, emolument or  
154 other valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any  
155 person to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote  
156 or refrain from voting for or against any person or for or against any  
157 measure at any such election, caucus, primary or referendum;

158       (3) Any person who, in consideration of any money, gift, advantage,  
159 preferment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing paid, received,  
160 accepted or promised to the person's advantage or any other person's  
161 advantage, votes or refrains from voting for or against any person or for  
162 or against any measure at any such election, caucus, primary or  
163 referendum;

164       (4) Any person who solicits from any candidate any money, gift,  
165 contribution, emolument or other valuable thing for the purpose of  
166 using the same for the support, assistance, benefit or expenses of any  
167 club, company or organization, or for the purpose of defraying the cost  
168 or expenses of any political campaign, primary, referendum or election;

169       (5) Any person who, directly or indirectly, pays, gives, contributes or  
170 promises any money or other valuable thing to defray or towards  
171 defraying the cost or expenses of any campaign, primary, referendum  
172 or election to any person, committee, company, club, organization or  
173 association, other than to a treasurer, except that this subdivision shall  
174 not apply to any expenses for postage, telegrams, telephoning,  
175 stationery, express charges, traveling, meals, lodging or photocopying  
176 incurred by any candidate for office or for nomination to office, so far as

177 may be permitted under the provisions of this chapter;

178 (6) Any person who, in order to secure or promote the person's own  
179 nomination or election as a candidate, or that of any other person,  
180 directly or indirectly, promises to appoint, or promises to secure or  
181 assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of any other  
182 person to any public position, or to any position of honor, trust or  
183 emolument; but any person may publicly announce the person's own  
184 choice or purpose in relation to any appointment, nomination or  
185 election in which the person may be called to take part, if the person is  
186 nominated for or elected to such office;

187 (7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through  
188 another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a treasurer  
189 in a name other than the person's own, and any treasurer who  
190 knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or  
191 causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name  
192 than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment  
193 is made;

194 (8) Any person who knowingly and wilfully violates any provision  
195 of this chapter;

196 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess of  
197 one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any political  
198 party, candidate or referendum question;

199 (10) Any person who solicits, makes or receives a contribution that is  
200 otherwise prohibited by any provision of this chapter;

201 (11) Any department head or deputy department head of a state  
202 department who solicits a contribution on behalf of, or for the benefit of,  
203 any candidate for state, district or municipal office or any political party;

204 (12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf  
205 of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal  
206 office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an  
207 individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or

208 a dependent child of such individual;

209 (13) Any person who makes an expenditure, that is not an  
210 independent expenditure, for a candidate without the knowledge of  
211 such candidate. No candidate shall be civilly or criminally liable with  
212 regard to any such expenditure;

213 (14) Any chief of staff of a legislative caucus who solicits a  
214 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,  
215 district or municipal office from an employee of the legislative caucus;

216 (15) Any chief of staff for a state-wide elected official who solicits a  
217 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,  
218 district or municipal office from a member of such official's staff;

219 (16) Any chief of staff for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor who  
220 solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for  
221 state, district or municipal office from a member of the staff of the  
222 Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or from any commissioner or deputy  
223 commissioner of any state agency;

224 (17) Any foreign national that makes, directly or indirectly, (A) any  
225 contribution or any express or implied promise to make a contribution,  
226 or (B) any expenditure; [or]

227 (18) Any person who solicits, accepts or receives any contribution or  
228 covered transfer from a foreign national; or

229 (19) Any campaign-related vendor, as described in subdivision (9) of  
230 subsection (b) of section 9-601c, as amended by this act, that is paid by  
231 a qualified candidate committee in excess of ten per cent of the Citizens'  
232 Election Program grant received by such qualified candidate committee,  
233 or five thousand dollars, whichever is less, and that fails to provide to  
234 the treasurer of such qualified candidate committee complete  
235 documentation regarding any financial obligation made or to be made  
236 on behalf of such qualified candidate committee by such campaign-  
237 related vendor, which documentation is necessary for the treasurer of  
238 such qualified candidate committee to perform such treasurer's duties

239 under chapters 155 to 157, inclusive.

240 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-704 of the general statutes  
241 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
242 *1, 2025*):

243 (b) (1) (A) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant  
244 Governor held in 2026, the aggregate contribution amounts in  
245 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall  
246 be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later  
247 than July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change in the consumer price  
248 index for all urban consumers as published by the United States  
249 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period  
250 beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2024.

251 [(b) (1)] (B) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant  
252 Governor held in [2022] 2030, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution  
253 amounts in subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of  
254 this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections  
255 Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, [2022] 2029, and  
256 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the  
257 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
258 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
259 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December  
260 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to  
261 be made.

262 (2) (A) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State  
263 Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in 2026, the  
264 aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
265 this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
266 Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change  
267 in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
268 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
269 the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31,  
270 2024.

271     [(2)] (B) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State  
272     Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in [2018] 2030,  
273     and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of  
274     subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections  
275     Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, [2018] 2029, and  
276     quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the  
277     consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
278     United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
279     the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December  
280     thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to  
281     be made.

282     (3) (A) [Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
283     for] For elections for the office of state senator or state representative  
284     held in [2018, and thereafter] 2026, the aggregate contribution amounts  
285     in subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,  
286     as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
287     Commission not later than [January 15, 2018, and biennially thereafter]  
288     July 3, 2025, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index  
289     for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department  
290     of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on  
291     January 1, 2017, and ending on [December thirty-first in the year  
292     preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made] December  
293     31, 2024.

294     (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative  
295     held in [2024] 2028, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts  
296     in subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section,  
297     as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
298     Commission not later than January 15, [2024] 2027, and biennially  
299     thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index  
300     for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department  
301     of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on  
302     January 1, 2017, and ending on December [31, 2021] thirty-first in the  
303     year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

304     ~~(c) (1) (A) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant~~  
305     ~~Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or~~  
306     ~~Secretary of the State held in 2026, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar~~  
307     ~~maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (1) or (2) of~~  
308     ~~subsection (a) of this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State~~  
309     ~~Elections Enforcement Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in~~  
310     ~~accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban~~  
311     ~~consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,~~  
312     ~~Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1,~~  
313     ~~2017, and ending on December 31, 2024.~~

314     ~~[(c) (1)] (B) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant~~  
315     ~~Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or~~  
316     ~~Secretary of the State held in [2022] 2030, and thereafter, the two-~~  
317     ~~hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in~~  
318     ~~subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as~~  
319     ~~applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement~~  
320     ~~Commission not later than January 15, [2022] 2029, and quadrennially~~  
321     ~~thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index~~  
322     ~~for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department~~  
323     ~~of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on~~  
324     ~~January 1, 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year~~  
325     ~~preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.~~

326     ~~(2) (A) For elections for the office of state senator or state~~  
327     ~~representative held in 2026, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum~~  
328     ~~individual contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection~~  
329     ~~(a) of this section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections~~  
330     ~~Enforcement Commission not later than July 3, 2025, in accordance with~~  
331     ~~any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as~~  
332     ~~published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor~~  
333     ~~Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending~~  
334     ~~on December 31, 2024.~~

335     ~~[(2)] (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state~~  
336     ~~representative held in [2020] 2028, and thereafter, the two-hundred-~~

337 fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (3)  
338 or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as applicable,  
339 shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not  
340 later than January 15, [2020] 2027, and biennially thereafter, in  
341 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban  
342 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,  
343 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1,  
344 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year preceding the year  
345 in which said adjustment is to be made.

346 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is  
347 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
348 *1, 2028*):

349 (a) (1) (A) A participating major party candidate for nomination to  
350 the office of Governor in [2026] 2030, or thereafter, may apply to the  
351 State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund  
352 under the Citizens' Election Program for a convention campaign,  
353 beginning in January of the year preceding the election for said office  
354 and after such candidate files the affidavit under section 9-703 certifying  
355 such candidate's intent to abide by the expenditure limits under said  
356 program.

357 (B) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
358 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of  
359 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
360 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply  
361 to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the  
362 fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a primary campaign, after  
363 the close of the state convention of the candidate's party that is called  
364 for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for the office that  
365 the candidate is seeking, if a primary is required under chapter 153, and  
366 (i) said party endorses the candidate for the office that the candidate is  
367 seeking, (ii) the candidate is seeking nomination to the office of  
368 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
369 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state

370 senator or state representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the  
371 votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call  
372 vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate  
373 for the office the candidate is seeking, or (iii) the candidate circulates a  
374 petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a  
375 candidacy for nomination for (I) the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
376 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or  
377 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state  
378 representative, pursuant to section 9-400, or (II) the municipal office of  
379 state senator or state representative, pursuant to section 9-406,  
380 whichever is applicable.

381 (C) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make any  
382 such grants to participating candidates in accordance with the  
383 provisions of subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of this section.

384 (2) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
385 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of  
386 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or  
387 State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections  
388 Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens'  
389 Election Program for a general election campaign:

390 (A) After the close of the state or district convention or municipal  
391 caucus, convention or town committee meeting, whichever is  
392 applicable, of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of  
393 choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is  
394 seeking, if (i) said party endorses said candidate for the office that the  
395 candidate is seeking and no other candidate of said party files a  
396 candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
397 provisions of section 9-400 or 9-406, whichever is applicable, (ii) the  
398 candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
399 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or  
400 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state  
401 representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the  
402 convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on

403 the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office  
404 the candidate is seeking, no other candidate for said office at such  
405 convention either receives the party endorsement or said percentage of  
406 said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate of endorsement with  
407 the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-  
408 388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
409 provisions of section 9-400, and no other candidate for said office  
410 circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for  
411 filing a candidacy for nomination for said office pursuant to section 9-  
412 400, (iii) the candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor,  
413 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State  
414 Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator  
415 or state representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required  
416 number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for said  
417 office pursuant to section 9-400 and no other candidate for said office at  
418 the state or district convention either receives the party endorsement or  
419 said percentage of said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate  
420 of endorsement with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
421 provisions of section 9-388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State  
422 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, or (iv) the candidate  
423 is seeking election to the municipal office of state senator or state  
424 representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required number of  
425 signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for the office the  
426 candidate is seeking pursuant to section 9-406 and no other candidate  
427 for said office at the caucus, convention or town committee meeting  
428 either receives the party endorsement or files a certification of  
429 endorsement with the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of  
430 section 9-391;

431 (B) After any primary held by such party for nomination for said  
432 office, if the Secretary of the State declares that the candidate is the party  
433 nominee in accordance with the provisions of section 9-440;

434 (C) In the case of a minor party candidate, after the nomination of  
435 such candidate is certified and filed with the Secretary of the State  
436 pursuant to section 9-452; or

437 (D) In the case of a petitioning party candidate, after approval by the  
438 Secretary of the State of such candidate's nominating petition pursuant  
439 to section 9-453o.

440 (3) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
441 senator or state representative at a special election in 2008, or thereafter,  
442 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant  
443 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a general  
444 election campaign after the close of the district convention or municipal  
445 caucus, convention or town committee meeting of the candidate's party  
446 that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for  
447 the office that the candidate is seeking.

448 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
449 subsection, no participating candidate for nomination or election who  
450 changes the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or  
451 petitioning party candidate or becomes a candidate of a different party,  
452 after filing the [affidavit required under section 9-703] grant application  
453 under this section, shall be eligible to [apply for a grant] receive  
454 additional grant funds under the Citizens' Election Program for such  
455 candidate's primary campaign for such nomination or general election  
456 campaign for such election. The provisions of this subdivision shall not  
457 apply in the case of a candidate who is nominated by more than one  
458 party and does not otherwise change the candidate's status as a major  
459 party, minor party or petitioning party candidate.

460 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, no candidate  
461 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant  
462 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program if such candidate  
463 has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of  
464 competent jurisdiction, any (A) criminal offense under this title unless  
465 at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the conviction or plea  
466 or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is later, without a  
467 subsequent conviction of or plea to another such offense, or (B) a felony  
468 related to the individual's public office, other than an offense under this  
469 title in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

470 Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is  
471 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
472 *passage*):

473 (d) (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this  
474 section, the commission shall review the application, determine whether  
475 [(1)] (A) the candidate committee for the applicant has received the  
476 required qualifying contributions, [(2)] (B) in the case of an application  
477 for a grant from the fund for a convention campaign, the applicant has  
478 met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for  
479 applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections  
480 (b) and (c) of this section, [(3)] (C) in the case of an application for a grant  
481 from the fund for a primary campaign, the applicant has met the  
482 applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for  
483 such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)  
484 of this section, [(4)] (D) in the case of an application for a grant from the  
485 fund for a general election campaign, the applicant has met the  
486 applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for  
487 such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)  
488 of this section, and [(5)] (E) in the case of an application by a minor party  
489 or petitioning party candidate for a grant from the fund for a general  
490 election campaign, the applicant qualifies as an eligible minor party  
491 candidate or an eligible petitioning party candidate, whichever is  
492 applicable.

493 (2) (A) If the commission approves an application, the commission  
494 shall determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate  
495 committee for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705 from the fund, and  
496 notify the State Comptroller and the candidate of such candidate  
497 committee of such amount.

498 (B) (i) If the timing of the commission's approval of the grant for a  
499 convention campaign in relation to the commission's consumer price  
500 index adjustment under subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 9-  
501 705 is such that the commission cannot yet determine the final amount  
502 of the convention campaign grant, the commission shall approve the

503 unadjusted initial amount. The commission shall then authorize the  
 504 payment of any remaining portion of the convention campaign grant  
 505 after such adjustment has been made.

506 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (B)(i) of this  
 507 subdivision, the candidate committee of an applicant who submits an  
 508 application prior to July 3, 2025, shall only be approved by the  
 509 commission to receive payment of the unadjusted amount described in  
 510 said subparagraph.

511 (C) If the timing of the commission's approval of the grant for a  
 512 primary campaign or general election campaign in relation to the  
 513 Secretary of the State's determination of ballot status is such that the  
 514 commission cannot determine whether the qualified candidate  
 515 committee is entitled to the applicable full initial grant for the primary  
 516 or election or the applicable partial grant for the primary or election, as  
 517 the case may be, the commission shall approve the lesser applicable  
 518 partial initial grant. The commission shall then authorize the payment  
 519 of the remaining portion of the applicable primary campaign or general  
 520 election campaign grant after the commission has knowledge of the  
 521 circumstances regarding the ballot status of the opposing candidates in  
 522 such primary or election.

523 (D) Not later than thirty days following notification by the  
 524 commission in the case of a convention campaign grant, or not later than  
 525 two business days following notification by the commission in the case  
 526 of any other grant, the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the  
 527 State Treasurer for payment of any such approved amount to the  
 528 qualified candidate committee from the fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(14)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-7b(a)(3)(B)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-602(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-606(c) and (d)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-601(25)

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Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-601c(b)(9)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	9-622
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	9-704(b) and (c)
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2028</i>	9-706(a)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	9-706(d)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Section 10(d)(2)(B)(i) was rewritten for clarity; and in Section 10(d)(2)(B)(ii), "lesser amount" was changed to "unadjusted amount" for accuracy.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Resources of the Citizen's Election Fund	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill makes a variety of changes regarding campaign finance laws and results in the fiscal impacts outlined below.

**Section 7** makes it an illegal campaign finance practice for certain campaign-related vendors to fail to provide a committee treasurer with certain documentation, which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300<sup>1</sup> while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600<sup>2</sup> each year for adults.

<sup>1</sup> Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

<sup>2</sup> Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

Few, if any, additional violations are anticipated.

**Section 9** results in a minimal potential cost to the Resources of the Citizens' Election Fund due to a change in eligibility for the grant cycle. The exact impact will depend on the number of candidates who will now receive grants who otherwise would not have.

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 actual number of violations.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 7222*****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the state's campaign finance laws, including (1) amending the list of activities that campaign-related vendors may do without it being considered an independent expenditure, (2) making it an illegal campaign finance practice for certain campaign-related vendors to fail to give necessary information to candidate committee treasurers, (3) changing when certain inflationary adjustments must be made for the Citizens' Election Program (CEP), (4) modifying the procedures for gubernatorial convention campaign grants, (5) changing when certain CEP grant restrictions take effect, and (6) amending certain campaign finance definitions.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage, except that provisions changing the timeline for certain CEP adjustments are effective July 1, 2025, and provisions on when a convention campaign grant may be applied for and when CEP grant restrictions attach are effective January 1, 2028.

**§§ 6 & 7 — CAMPAIGN-RELATED VENDORS*****Independent Expenditures: Exclusions (§ 6)***

By law, an "independent expenditure" (IE) is an expenditure made without the consent, coordination, or consultation of a (1) candidate or candidate's agent; (2) candidate committee; (3) political committee (PAC); or (4) party committee, and authorized persons (including individuals, entities, and committees) may make unlimited IEs.

The law specifically excludes certain things from being IEs (although

there is a rebuttable presumption), and the bill changes one of these. Current law excludes payments to campaign-related vendors that provide the following services: polling, mail design, mail strategy, political strategy, general campaign advice, or telephone banking. The bill instead excludes payments to vendors that provide the following services: (1) campaign strategy; (2) design or management of campaign communications, literature, or advertising; or (3) fundraising or management services, or with duties that include identifying, hiring, or paying subvendors for goods or services on the committee's behalf.

### ***Documentation (§ 7)***

Under campaign finance law, committee treasurers must authorize all committee expenditures, make payments accordingly, and preserve all transaction records. The bill makes it an illegal campaign finance practice for certain campaign-related vendors to not give a committee treasurer the complete information about any financial obligation to be made or made on behalf of the committee so the treasurer can meet his or her responsibilities under the campaign finance laws. It subjects to this penalty vendors who are paid by a qualified candidate committee either \$5,000 or more than 10% of the CEP grant.

By law, an illegal campaign finance practice is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per offense or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater (CGS § 9-7b(a)(2)(D)). If the act is knowing and willful, it is a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 9-623(a)).

## **§ 8 — CPI ADJUSTMENTS FOR CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM**

The CEP is the state's voluntary public campaign financing system, available to candidates for legislative and statewide office. By law, candidates qualify for the CEP by raising at least an aggregate amount of funds through qualifying contributions (QCs) from individual donors. The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) must adjust the aggregate and QC amounts every two years for legislative office candidates and every four years for statewide office candidates based on the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban

Consumers (CPI-U).

Beginning with the 2028 election cycle, the bill shifts the timing of these adjustments from January of an election year to January of the prior year. For the 2026 election cycle, it also authorizes SEEC to make an early inflationary adjustment to these amounts by July 3, 2025, based on the CPI-U, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, during the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2024.

By law, the statutory aggregate contribution amounts and QC amounts are set based on the elected office. The statutory aggregate amounts are \$250,000 for the governor, \$75,000 for the lieutenant governor or other statewide office, \$15,000 for a state senator, and \$5,000 for a state representative. The maximum QC amount under state law is \$250.

#### **§ 9 — INELIGIBILITY FOR CEP GRANTS**

Once a candidate files an affidavit to abide by the CEP's requirements, current law makes the candidate ineligible for a CEP grant if he or she changes status as a major party, minor party, or petitioning party candidate or becomes a candidate of a different party. The bill shifts when this prohibition begins from the affidavit's filing to the CEP grant application's filing (which is generally after the candidate has met his or her fundraising requirement and qualified for ballot access, unlike when the affidavit has been filed).

#### **§§ 9 & 10 — GUBERNATORIAL CONVENTION CAMPAIGN GRANT**

Under existing law, a major party gubernatorial candidate who participates in the CEP may apply for and receive a "convention campaign grant" before the party's nominating convention. The law allows candidates to apply for this grant at any time after filing the affidavit of intent to participate in, and abide by, the CEP's spending limits and requires SEEC to approve or disapprove the application within 10 business days after receiving it. The bill specifies that a major party candidate for nomination to the office of governor in 2030 or after may apply for this grant beginning in the January preceding the election

after filing the affidavit.

Additionally, under the bill, if a gubernatorial candidate is approved for a convention campaign grant, but the upcoming grant amount has not yet been determined through the CPI adjustment process described above, similar to existing law for other CEP grants, SEEC must approve the initial grant amount the candidate is eligible for. Once the CPI adjustment has been made, SEEC must approve and pay the remaining portion of the candidate's grant.

Relatedly, any candidate committee that applies for a grant before July 3, 2025 (see above), may only be approved for the unadjusted amount.

## **§§ 1-5 — CHANGES TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEFINITIONS**

### ***Solicitor (§§ 1-4)***

The state's campaign finance laws define the terms "solicit" and "solicitor." Solicit means, among other things, requesting that a contribution be made. However, a "solicitor" is not a person who requests or solicits contributions, but is instead a specially designated agent of a committee who can physically collect contributions on the committee's behalf. The bill renames a "solicitor" as a "collector," unlinking these terms, and makes several conforming changes.

### ***Organization Expenditures (§ 5)***

By law, organization expenditures are made by legislative caucus, legislative leadership, or party committees to benefit candidates or their committees. They are not considered campaign contributions, but the law places restrictions and limits on those made to benefit legislative candidates participating in the CEP.

The bill modifies the definition of organizational expenditure to include a campaign event at which a candidate or candidates are present. (Prior law included this language until 2023.) Current law only defines this as an event with campaign materials but at which no contribution may be received, solicited, or bundled.

**BACKGROUND*****Related Bills***

SB 515 (File 478), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs.

SB 1405 (File 489), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs and amends the definitions of “organization expenditure” and “solicit.”

sSB 1517, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, makes various changes regarding independent expenditures.

sSB 1533, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, makes identical changes to this bill regarding the definition of “organization expenditure,” CPI adjustments, and gubernatorial convention campaign grants.

HB 7089 (File 512), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes identical changes as this bill.

HB 7093 (File 516), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes various changes regarding independent expenditures.

sHB 7246, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs and amends the definitions of “organization expenditure” and “solicit.”

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18    Nay 1    (03/26/2025)