



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 491**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1407

*Senate, April 3, 2025*

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING AUDITS CONDUCTED BY THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (5) (A) To inspect or audit at any reasonable time and upon  
5 reasonable notice the accounts or records of any treasurer or principal  
6 treasurer, except as provided for in subparagraph (B) of this  
7 subdivision, as required by chapter 155 or 157 and to audit any such  
8 election, primary or referendum held within the state; provided, (i) (I)  
9 not later than two months preceding the day of an election at which a  
10 candidate is seeking election, the commission shall complete any audit  
11 it has initiated in the absence of a complaint that involves a committee  
12 of the same candidate from a previous election, and (II) during the two-  
13 month period preceding the day of an election at which a candidate is

14 seeking election, the commission shall not initiate an audit in the  
15 absence of a complaint that involves a committee of the same candidate  
16 from a previous election, and (ii) the commission shall not audit any  
17 caucus, as defined in subdivision (1) of section 9-372.

18 (B) When conducting an audit after an election or primary, the  
19 commission shall randomly audit not more than fifty per cent of  
20 candidate committees, which shall be selected through the process of a  
21 weighted lottery conducted by the commission that takes into account  
22 the selection frequency of a district served by the office of state senator  
23 or state representative, as applicable, for the immediately preceding  
24 three regular elections for such office and increases or decreases the  
25 likelihood that such district will be selected for audit based on such  
26 selection frequency, except that the commissioner shall audit all  
27 candidate committees for candidates for a state-wide office. Any such  
28 lottery shall be duly noticed and open to the public.

29 (C) The commission shall notify, in writing, any committee of a  
30 candidate for an office in the general election, or of any candidate who  
31 had a primary for nomination to any such office, of its selection for an  
32 audit not later than May thirty-first of the year immediately following  
33 such election. In no case shall the commission audit any such candidate  
34 committee that the commission fails to provide notice to in accordance  
35 with this subparagraph.

36 (D) Not later than twelve months after the commission receives all  
37 necessary information to conduct an audit described in subparagraph  
38 (B) of this subdivision, the commission shall complete such audit and  
39 issue its findings. Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually  
40 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report to the joint standing  
41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
42 relating to government oversight, in accordance with the provisions of  
43 section 11-4a, concerning whether there were any audits during the  
44 preceding calendar year that the commission was unable to complete  
45 during such twelve-month period and, if so, the reasons for such  
46 inability to complete such audits;

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

Section 1	July 1, 2025	9-7b(a)(5)
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (a)(5)(C), the first sentence was rewritten for clarity.

**GOS**      *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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Cost	132,684	132,684
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	54,016	54,016

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to make public the process by which they randomly select campaigns to audit. In addition, the SEEC must complete audits within one calendar year and deliver a report to the General Assembly on audits that were not completed in that timeframe resulting in the cost described below.

To complete the audits within the specified timeframe, SEEC will require one Accounts Examiner, and one Accounting Careers Trainee at a total cost of \$132,684 in salary, and \$54,002 in fringe benefits in FY 26 and FY 27.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1407*****AN ACT CONCERNING AUDITS CONDUCTED BY THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes affecting the timing and process for certain audits done by the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC). By law, SEEC must audit all statewide office candidate committees and certain legislative candidate committees after an election or primary.

The bill creates a deadline by which the commission must complete these audits and issue its findings. Specifically, an audit must be completed within 12 months after receiving all the necessary information to conduct it. (The bill does not specify how this is determined, so it is unclear when the 12-month period would begin.)

Relatedly, the bill requires SEEC to submit a report to the Government Oversight Committee by January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter on any audits during the prior calendar year that it was not able to complete within the required period and the reasons for failing to do so.

The bill also adds requirements related to the selection of legislative candidate committees for auditing. Existing law prohibits SEEC from auditing more than 50% of legislative candidate committees after an election or primary and requires it to select these committees for auditing according to a weighted lottery. The bill requires that the weighted lottery be duly noticed and open to the public (in practice, this lottery is already open to the public). The bill is silent on what is considered duly noticed.

Lastly, the bill makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    12    Nay    0    (03/18/2025)