



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 493**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1409

*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 MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-603 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

3 (a) Statements filed pursuant to chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, by  
4 party committees, political committees formed to aid or promote the  
5 success or defeat of a referendum question, [proposing a constitutional  
6 convention, constitutional amendment or revision of the Constitution,  
7 individual lobbyists,] and those political committees and candidate  
8 committees formed to aid or promote the success or defeat of any  
9 candidate for [the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of  
10 the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney General, judge of  
11 probate and members of the General Assembly] public office or the  
12 position of town committee member, or any other persons covered  
13 under said chapters, shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement  
14 Commission. A political committee formed for a slate of candidates in a

15 primary for the office of justice of the peace shall file statements with the  
16 [town clerk of the municipality in which the primary is to be held] State  
17 Elections Enforcement Commission.

18 [(b) Statements filed by political committees formed solely to aid or  
19 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question to be voted  
20 upon by the electors of a single municipality and those political  
21 committees or candidate committees formed to aid or promote the  
22 success or defeat of any candidate for public office, other than those  
23 enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, or the position of town  
24 committee member shall be filed only with the town clerk of the  
25 municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held. Each  
26 unsalaried town clerk shall be entitled to receive ten cents from the town  
27 for the filing of each such statement.]

28 [(c)] (b) A certification of a candidate who is exempt from the  
29 requirement of subsection (a) of section 9-604, as amended by this act,  
30 to form a candidate committee shall be filed with the State Elections  
31 Enforcement Commission. [if the candidate seeks an office enumerated  
32 in subsection (a) of this section, or with the town clerk of the  
33 municipality in which the election is to be held if the candidate seeks an  
34 office other than those enumerated. A certification of a group of  
35 individuals who have joined solely to aid or promote a referendum  
36 question and who are exempt from the requirement to form a political  
37 committee under section 9-605 shall be filed with the town clerk of each  
38 municipality in which the referendum is to be held.]

39 [(d)] (c) On December 31, 2006, the duties of the Secretary of the State  
40 concerning the administration of campaign finance reporting under this  
41 chapter shall be transferred to the State Elections Enforcement  
42 Commission.

43 Sec. 2. Section 9-604 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

45 (a) Each candidate for a particular public office or the position of  
46 town committee member shall form a single candidate committee for

47 which he shall designate a treasurer and a depository institution  
48 situated in this state as the depository for the committee's funds and  
49 shall file a committee statement containing such designations, not later  
50 than ten days after becoming a candidate, with the [proper authority]  
51 State Elections Enforcement Commission as required by section 9-603,  
52 as amended by this act. The candidate may also designate a deputy  
53 treasurer on such committee statement. The treasurer and any deputy  
54 treasurer so designated shall sign a statement accepting such  
55 designation which the candidate shall include as part of, or file with, the  
56 committee statement.

57 (b) The formation of a candidate committee by a candidate and the  
58 filing of statements pursuant to section 9-608, as amended by this act,  
59 shall not be required if the candidate files a certification with the [proper  
60 authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission required by section  
61 9-603, as amended by this act, not later than ten days after becoming a  
62 candidate, and any of the following conditions exist for the campaign:  
63 (1) The candidate is one of a slate of candidates whose campaigns are  
64 funded solely by a party committee or a political committee formed for  
65 a single election or primary and expenditures made on behalf of the  
66 candidate's campaign are reported by the committee sponsoring the  
67 candidate's candidacy; (2) the candidate finances the candidate's  
68 campaign entirely from personal funds and does not solicit or receive  
69 contributions, provided if said candidate personally makes an  
70 expenditure or expenditures in excess of one thousand dollars to, or for  
71 the benefit of, said candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or  
72 election to an office or position, said candidate shall file statements  
73 according to the same schedule and in the same manner as is required  
74 of a treasurer of a candidate committee under section 9-608, as amended  
75 by this act; (3) the candidate does not receive or expend funds in excess  
76 of one thousand dollars; or (4) the candidate does not receive or expend  
77 any funds, including personal funds, for the candidate's campaign. If  
78 the candidate no longer qualifies for the exemption under any of these  
79 conditions, the candidate shall comply with the provisions of subsection  
80 (a) of this section, not later than three business days thereafter and shall  
81 provide the candidate's designated treasurer with all information

82 required for completion of the treasurer's statements and filings as  
83 required by section 9-608, as amended by this act. If the candidate no  
84 longer qualifies for the exemption due to the condition stated in the  
85 candidate's certification but so qualifies due to a different condition  
86 specified in this subsection, the candidate shall file an amended  
87 certification with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement  
88 Commission and provide the new condition for the candidate's  
89 qualification not later than three business days following the change in  
90 circumstances of the financing of the candidate's campaign. The filing  
91 of a certification under this subsection shall not relieve the candidate  
92 from compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

93 (c) The chairman of a political committee formed to support a single  
94 candidate for public office shall, not later than seven days after filing a  
95 statement of organization with the [proper authority] State Elections  
96 Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as amended by this act,  
97 send the candidate a notice, by certified mail, of such filing. If a  
98 candidate (1) does not, within fourteen days after receiving such notice,  
99 disavow such committee, in writing, to the [proper authority] State  
100 Elections Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as amended by  
101 this act, or (2) disavows such committee within such period, but, at any  
102 time before such disavowal, accepts funds from the committee for his  
103 campaign, such committee shall be deemed to have been authorized by  
104 such candidate and shall constitute a candidate committee for the  
105 purposes of this chapter. No candidate shall establish, agree to or assist  
106 in establishing, or give his consent or authorization to establishing, a  
107 committee other than a single candidate committee to promote his  
108 candidacy for any public office, except that a candidate may establish  
109 an exploratory committee. The candidate shall designate on the  
110 statement of organization for the exploratory committee the type of  
111 office to which the candidate is determining whether to seek nomination  
112 or election, as follows: (A) The General Assembly, (B) a state office, or  
113 (C) any other public office. The candidate may also certify on the  
114 statement of organization that the candidate will not be a candidate for  
115 the office of state representative. Not later than fifteen days after a public  
116 declaration by the candidate of the candidate's intention to seek

117 nomination or election to a particular public office, the candidate shall  
118 form a single candidate committee, except that in the case of a candidate  
119 establishing an exploratory committee for purposes including aiding or  
120 promoting the candidate's candidacy for nomination or election to the  
121 General Assembly or a state office, the candidate shall form a single  
122 candidate committee not later than fifteen days after the date that the  
123 treasurer of such exploratory committee is required to file a notice of  
124 intent to dissolve the committee under subsection (f) of section 9-608, as  
125 amended by this act. As used in this subsection, "state office" has the  
126 same meaning as provided in subsection (e) of section 9-610.

127 (d) A slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the  
128 peace shall designate a chairperson to form a single political committee  
129 to comply with the requirements of section 9-605, as amended by this  
130 act, except if the individuals on the slate unanimously consent to have  
131 their campaign financed solely by a town committee and such  
132 committee consents to such financing by filing a statement of consent  
133 with the [town clerk of the municipality in which the primary is to be  
134 held] State Elections Enforcement Commission.

135 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is  
136 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
137 *1, 2029*):

138 (d) At the time of filing statements required under this section, the  
139 treasurer of each candidate committee shall send to the candidate a  
140 duplicate statement and the treasurer of each party committee and each  
141 political committee other than an exploratory committee shall send to  
142 the chairman of the committee a duplicate statement. Each statement  
143 required to be filed [with the commission] under this section, section 9-  
144 601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712 shall be deemed to be filed in a  
145 timely manner if: (1) For a statement filed as a hard copy, including, but  
146 not limited to, a statement delivered by the United States Postal Service,  
147 courier service, parcel service or hand delivery, the statement is received  
148 by the commission by five o'clock p.m. on the day the statement is  
149 required to be filed, (2) for a statement authorized by the commission to

150 be filed electronically, including, but not limited to, a statement filed via  
151 dedicated electronic mail, facsimile machine, a web-based program  
152 created by the commission or other electronic means, the statement is  
153 transmitted to the commission not later than eleven fifty-nine o'clock  
154 p.m. on the day the statement is required to be filed, or (3) for a  
155 statement required to be filed pursuant to section 9-601d, section 9-706  
156 or section 9-712, by the deadline specified in each such section. [Any  
157 other filing required to be filed with a town clerk pursuant to this section  
158 shall be deemed to be filed in a timely manner if it is delivered by hand  
159 to the office of the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of  
160 section 9-603 before four-thirty o'clock p.m. or postmarked by the  
161 United States Postal Service before midnight on the required filing day.]  
162 If the day for any filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the  
163 statement shall be filed on the next business day thereafter. The State  
164 Elections Enforcement Commission shall not levy a penalty upon a  
165 treasurer for failure to file a hard copy of a statement in a timely manner  
166 in accordance with the provisions of this section if such treasurer has a  
167 copy of the statement time stamped by the State Elections Enforcement  
168 Commission that shows timely receipt of the statement or the treasurer  
169 has a return receipt from the United States Postal Service or a similar  
170 receipt from a commercial delivery service confirming timely delivery  
171 of such statement was made or should have been made to said  
172 commission.

173 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 9-610 of the general  
174 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
175 (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

176 (2) A political committee established for ongoing political activities,  
177 [and required pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-603 to file  
178 statements with the commission] other than a committee established  
179 solely for the purpose of aiding or promoting any candidate or  
180 candidates for municipal office or the success or defeat of a referendum  
181 question, shall be subject to the prohibition on making contributions  
182 under subsection (e) of this section unless the treasurer of the committee  
183 has filed a registration statement as described in subsection (b) of section

184 9-605 with the commission, on forms prescribed by the commission, on  
185 or before November 15, 2012, for all such political committees in  
186 existence on such date, or, if the committee is not in existence on such  
187 date, not later than ten days after the organization of the committee  
188 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-605, as amended by this act, and  
189 on or before November fifteenth of each even-numbered year thereafter.  
190 Such statements shall be filed even if there are no changes, additions or  
191 deletions to the registration statement previously filed with the  
192 commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, if an  
193 officer of the committee has changed since the last registration statement  
194 filed with the commission, such registration statement shall be filed by  
195 the chairperson of the committee.

196 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-623 of the general statutes is  
197 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
198 *1, 2029*):

199 (b) (1) If any treasurer fails to file any statement required by section  
200 9-608, as amended by this act, or if any candidate fails to file either (A)  
201 a statement for the formation of a candidate committee as required by  
202 section 9-604, as amended by this act, or (B) a certification pursuant to  
203 section 9-603, as amended by this act, that the candidate is exempt from  
204 forming a candidate committee as required by section 9-604, as  
205 amended by this act, within the time required, the treasurer or  
206 candidate, as the case may be, shall pay a late filing fee of one hundred  
207 dollars.

208 (2) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required  
209 to be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the  
210 commission shall, not later than ten days after the filing deadline is, or  
211 should be, known to have passed, notify by certified mail, return receipt  
212 requested, the person required to file that, if such statement or  
213 certification is not filed not later than twenty-one days after such notice,  
214 the person is in violation of section 9-603, as amended by this act, 9-604,  
215 as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act.

216 [(3) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required

217 to be filed with a town clerk, the town clerk shall forthwith after the  
218 filing deadline is, or should be, known to have passed, notify by certified  
219 mail, return receipt requested, the person required to file that, if such  
220 statement or certification is not filed not later than seven days after the  
221 town clerk mails such notice, the town clerk shall notify the State  
222 Elections Enforcement Commission that the person is in violation of  
223 section 9-603, 9-604 or 9-608.]

224 [(4)] (3) The penalty for any violation of section 9-603, as amended by  
225 this act, 9-604, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act,  
226 shall be a fine of not less than two hundred dollars or more than two  
227 thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

228 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
229 subsection, the commission may waive any late filing fee described in  
230 said subdivision for any treasurer or candidate in a municipality in  
231 which a primary or election for municipal office is being held in 2029.

232 Sec. 6. Section 9-624 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
233 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

234 [(a)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall prepare and  
235 print the forms required for compliance with this chapter and distribute  
236 them upon request to candidates and treasurers.

237 [(b)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall, at the  
238 expense of the state, prepare and print all forms for statements required  
239 to be returned under the provisions of this chapter and shall furnish to  
240 each town clerk a sufficient supply of each of such blank forms as are  
241 required to be filed with or returned to the town clerk. The town clerk  
242 of each town shall, upon request, distribute to treasurers the forms  
243 required for compliance with this chapter and, if not salaried, shall be  
244 entitled to receive from the town the sum of ten cents for each copy.]

245 Sec. 7. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

247 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a



248 web-based program for the preparation and electronic submission of  
249 registration, certification of exemption from registration and financial  
250 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, and (2)  
251 prescribe the standard reporting format and specifications for any  
252 software program created by a vendor for such purpose. No software  
253 program created by a vendor may be used for the electronic submission  
254 of such financial disclosure statements unless the commission  
255 determines that the software program provides for the standard  
256 reporting format and complies with the specifications prescribed under  
257 subdivision (2) of this subsection for any such software program. The  
258 commission shall provide training in the use of the web-based program  
259 created by the commission.

260 (b) [On and after July 1, 2017, the] The following shall file all financial  
261 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, by  
262 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section: (1) The  
263 treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory committee for each  
264 candidate for nomination or election to [the office of Governor,  
265 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State  
266 Treasurer, Secretary of the State, state senator, state representative or  
267 judge of probate] public office or the position of town committee  
268 member that raises or spends one thousand dollars or more, (2) the  
269 treasurer of any state central committee, legislative caucus committee or  
270 legislative leadership committee, (3) the treasurer of any other political  
271 committee or town committee [required to be registered with the  
272 commission] that (A) raises or spends one thousand dollars or more  
273 during the current calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one thousand  
274 dollars or more in the preceding regular election cycle, and (4) the  
275 treasurer of any committee, or any other person, who makes or obligates  
276 to make any independent expenditure and who is required to file a  
277 financial disclosure statement of any such independent expenditure  
278 [with the State Elections Enforcement Commission] in accordance with  
279 the provisions of section 9-601d. Once any such candidate committee or  
280 exploratory committee has raised or spent one thousand dollars or more  
281 during an election campaign, all previously filed statements required by  
282 chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, which were not filed by electronic

283 submission shall be refiled in such manner not later than the date on  
284 which the treasurer of such committee is required to file its next  
285 financial disclosure statement.

286 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other  
287 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends one  
288 thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial disclosure  
289 statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the  
290 commission,] and (2) the treasurer of any other political committee or  
291 town committee that neither raises nor spends one thousand dollars or  
292 more who is required to file the financial disclosure statements required  
293 by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the State Elections Enforcement  
294 Commission] may file any such financial disclosure statements by  
295 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

296 (d) All registration and certification of exemption from registration  
297 statements required of candidates by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, shall  
298 be filed by electronic submission pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
299 subsection (a) of this section. Any amendment to any such statement  
300 shall be filed by electronic submission not later than ten days after the  
301 addition or change specified by such amendment, or within the time  
302 period otherwise required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive.

303 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, upon the  
304 written request of a treasurer or any other person described in  
305 subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, or a  
306 candidate in subsection (d) of this section, the commission may waive  
307 the requirement to file by electronic submission pursuant to subsection  
308 (a) of this section if such treasurer, [or] other person or candidate  
309 demonstrates good cause.

310 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-602 of the general statutes  
311 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
312 *January 1, 2029*):

313 (b) No contribution in aid of or in opposition to the candidacy of any  
314 person or to any party or referendum question shall be made at any

315 time, except to the committee's treasurer whose designation is on file  
316 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission, a  
317 solicitor or a candidate who is exempt from the requirement to form a  
318 candidate committee and has filed a certification.

319 (c) An individual who is designated as treasurer of a committee shall  
320 be responsible for all duties required of him under this chapter until the  
321 committee is terminated. The treasurer shall be relieved of such duties  
322 upon his permanent incapacity, resignation or replacement, provided a  
323 statement to that effect is filed with the [proper authority] State Elections  
324 Enforcement Commission, as provided in section 9-603, as amended by  
325 this act. In the event of the death of the treasurer or after a statement has  
326 been filed concerning the treasurer's incapacity, resignation or  
327 replacement, if a deputy treasurer has been designated, the deputy  
328 treasurer shall be responsible for all duties required of the treasurer  
329 under this chapter until the candidate or chairman of the committee files  
330 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission a  
331 designation of a successor treasurer. If a deputy treasurer has not been  
332 designated, the candidate or chairman shall designate a successor  
333 treasurer and file such designation with the [proper authority] State  
334 Elections Enforcement Commission not more than ten days after the  
335 death of the treasurer or the filing of the statement of his incapacity,  
336 resignation or replacement.

337 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is  
338 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
339 *1, 2029*):

340 (a) The chairperson of each political committee shall designate a  
341 treasurer and may designate a deputy treasurer. The treasurer and any  
342 deputy treasurer so designated shall sign a statement accepting the  
343 designation. The chairperson of each political committee shall file a  
344 registration statement described in subsection (b) of this section along  
345 with the statement signed by the designated treasurer and deputy  
346 treasurer with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement  
347 Commission, within ten days after its organization, provided that the

348 chairperson of any political committee organized within ten days prior  
349 to any primary, election or referendum in connection with which it  
350 intends to make any contributions or expenditures, shall immediately  
351 file a registration statement.

352 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 9-605 of the general statutes is  
353 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
354 *1, 2029*):

355 (c) The treasurer of each political committee shall report any addition  
356 to or change in information previously submitted in a statement of  
357 organization to the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement  
358 Commission not later than ten days after the addition or change,  
359 provided if an officer of the committee has changed, such amended  
360 statement shall be filed by the chairperson of the committee.

361 Sec. 11. Subsection (m) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is  
362 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
363 *1, 2029*):

364 (m) Any obligation or restriction imposed by this section and sections  
365 9-608, as amended by this act, 9-610, as amended by this act, 9-611, 9-  
366 613, 9-615, 9-616, 9-618, 9-620, 9-621, 9-622 and 9-623, as amended by this  
367 act, on a treasurer or a candidate committee shall be deemed to be  
368 imposed on any candidate who is exempt from forming a candidate  
369 committee and has filed a certification pursuant to subsection (b) of  
370 section 9-604, as amended by this act, with the [proper authority] State  
371 Elections Enforcement Commission.

372 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is  
373 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
374 *1, 2029*):

375 (a) (1) Each treasurer of a committee, other than a state central  
376 committee, shall file a statement, sworn under penalty of false statement  
377 with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission in  
378 accordance with the provisions of section 9-603, as amended by this act,

379 (A) on the tenth calendar day in the months of January, April, July and  
380 October, provided, if such tenth calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday or  
381 legal holiday, the statement shall be filed on the next business day,  
382 except that in the case of a candidate or exploratory committee  
383 established for an office to be elected at a special election, statements  
384 pursuant to this subparagraph shall not be required, (B) on the seventh  
385 day preceding each regular state election, except that (i) in the case of a  
386 candidate or exploratory committee established for an office to be  
387 elected at a municipal election, the statement shall be filed on the  
388 seventh day preceding a regular municipal election in lieu of such date,  
389 except if the candidate's name is not eligible to appear on the ballot, in  
390 which case such statement shall not be required, (ii) in the case of a town  
391 committee, the statement shall be filed on the seventh day preceding  
392 each municipal election in addition to such date, (iii) in the case of a  
393 candidate committee in a state election that is required to file any  
394 supplemental campaign finance statements pursuant to subdivisions (1)  
395 and (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-712, such supplemental campaign  
396 finance statements shall satisfy the filing requirement under this  
397 subdivision, and (iv) in the case of a candidate committee established by  
398 a candidate whose name is not eligible to appear on the ballot, such  
399 statement shall not be required, and (C) if the committee has made or  
400 received a contribution or expenditure in connection with any other  
401 election, a primary or a referendum, on the seventh day preceding the  
402 election, primary or referendum, except that in the case of a candidate  
403 committee in a primary that is required to file statements pursuant to  
404 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-712, such  
405 statements shall satisfy the filing requirement under this subdivision.  
406 The statement shall be complete as of eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. of  
407 the last day of the month preceding the month in which the statement is  
408 required to be filed, except that for the statement required to be filed on  
409 the seventh day preceding the election, primary or referendum, the  
410 statement shall be complete as of eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. of the  
411 second day immediately preceding the required filing day. The  
412 statement shall cover a period to begin with the first day not included  
413 in the last filed statement. In the case of a candidate committee, the

414 statement required to be filed in January shall be in lieu of the statement  
415 formerly required to be filed within forty-five days following an  
416 election.

417 (2) Each treasurer of a candidate committee established by a  
418 candidate in a primary, not later than thirty days after such primary,  
419 and each treasurer of a political committee formed for a single primary,  
420 election or referendum, not later than forty-five days after any election  
421 or referendum not held in November, shall file statements in the same  
422 manner as is required of them under subdivision (1) of this subsection.  
423 A candidate committee established by a candidate who is unsuccessful  
424 in the primary shall not be required to file any statements required  
425 under subdivision (1) of this subsection following the primary unless  
426 the candidate is eligible to appear on the general election ballot. If the  
427 treasurer of a candidate committee established by a candidate, who is  
428 unsuccessful in the primary or has terminated his candidacy prior to the  
429 primary, distributes all surplus funds within thirty days following the  
430 scheduled primary and discloses the distribution on the postprimary  
431 statement, such treasurer shall not be required to file any subsequent  
432 statement unless the committee has a deficit, in which case he shall file  
433 any required statements in accordance with the provisions of  
434 subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of this section.

435 (3) In the case of state central committees, (A) on the tenth calendar  
436 day in the months of January, April and July, provided, if such tenth  
437 calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, on the next business  
438 day, (B) on the twelfth day preceding any regular election, and (C) if the  
439 committee has made or received a contribution or expenditure in  
440 connection with any other election, or any primary or referendum, on  
441 the twelfth day preceding the election, primary or referendum, the  
442 treasurer of each such committee shall file with the [proper authority]  
443 State Elections Enforcement Commission, a statement, sworn under  
444 penalty of false statement, complete as of the last day of the month  
445 immediately preceding the month in which such statement is to be filed  
446 in the case of statements required to be filed in January, April and July,  
447 and complete as of the nineteenth day preceding an election, primary or

448 referendum in the case of the statement required to be filed on the  
449 twelfth day preceding an election, primary or referendum, and in each  
450 case covering a period to begin with the first day not included in the last  
451 filed statement.

452 Sec. 13. Subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (e) of section 9-608 of  
453 the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
454 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2029*):

455 (3) Not later than seven days after such distribution or not later than  
456 seven days after all funds have been expended in accordance with  
457 subparagraph (D) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the treasurer  
458 shall file a supplemental statement, sworn under penalty of false  
459 statement, with the [proper authority] State Elections Enforcement  
460 Commission, identifying all further contributions received since the  
461 previous statement and explaining how any surplus has been  
462 distributed or expended in accordance with this section. No surplus  
463 may be distributed or expended until after the election, primary or  
464 referendum.

465 (4) In the event of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a supplemental  
466 statement ninety days after an election, primary or referendum not held  
467 in November or on the seventh calendar day in February, or the next  
468 business day if such day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, after an  
469 election or referendum held in November, with the [proper authority]  
470 State Elections Enforcement Commission and, thereafter, on the seventh  
471 day of each month following if on the last day of the previous month  
472 there was an increase or decrease in the deficit in excess of five hundred  
473 dollars from that reported on the last statement filed. The treasurer shall  
474 file such supplemental statements as required until the deficit is  
475 eliminated. If any such committee does not have a surplus or a deficit,  
476 the statement required to be filed not later than forty-five days following  
477 any election or referendum not held in November or on the seventh  
478 calendar day in January, or the next business day if such day is a  
479 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, following an election or referendum  
480 held in November, or not later than thirty days following any primary

481 shall be the last required statement.

482 Sec. 14. Subsection (f) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is  
483 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
484 *1, 2029*):

485 (f) If an exploratory committee has been established by a candidate  
486 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604, as amended by this act, the  
487 treasurer of the committee shall file a notice of intent to dissolve it with  
488 the [appropriate authority] State Elections Enforcement Commission  
489 not later than fifteen days after the candidate's declaration of intent to  
490 seek nomination or election to a particular public office, except that in  
491 the case of an exploratory committee established by a candidate for  
492 purposes that include aiding or promoting the candidate's candidacy for  
493 nomination or election to the General Assembly or a state office, the  
494 treasurer of the committee shall file such notice of intent to dissolve the  
495 committee not later than fifteen days after the earlier of: (1) The  
496 candidate's declaration of intent to seek nomination or election to a  
497 particular public office, (2) the candidate's endorsement at a convention,  
498 caucus or town committee meeting, or (3) the candidate's filing of a  
499 candidacy for nomination under section 9-400 or 9-405. The treasurer  
500 shall also file a statement identifying all contributions received or  
501 expenditures made by the exploratory committee since the previous  
502 statement and the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. In the  
503 event of a surplus, the treasurer shall, not later than the filing of the  
504 statement, distribute the surplus to the candidate committee established  
505 pursuant to said section, except that (A) in the case of a surplus of an  
506 exploratory committee established by a candidate who intends to be a  
507 participating candidate, as defined in section 9-703, as amended by this  
508 act, in the Citizens' Election Program, the treasurer may distribute to the  
509 candidate committee only that portion of such surplus that is  
510 attributable to contributions that meet the criteria for qualifying  
511 contributions for the candidate committee under section 9-704 and shall  
512 distribute the remainder of such surplus to the Citizens' Election Fund  
513 established in section 9-701, and (B) in the case of a surplus of an  
514 exploratory committee established for nomination or election to an



515 office other than the General Assembly or a state office (i) the treasurer  
516 may only distribute to the candidate committee for nomination or  
517 election to the General Assembly or state office of such candidate that  
518 portion of such surplus which is in excess of the total contributions  
519 which the exploratory committee received from lobbyists or political  
520 committees established by lobbyists, during any period in which the  
521 prohibitions in subsection (e) of section 9-610 apply, and (ii) any  
522 remaining amount shall be returned to all such lobbyists and political  
523 committees established by or on behalf of lobbyists, on a prorated basis  
524 of contribution, or distributed to any charitable organization which is a  
525 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
526 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code  
527 of the United States, as from time to time amended. If the candidate  
528 decides not to seek nomination or election to any office, the treasurer  
529 shall, within fifteen days after such decision, comply with the provisions  
530 of this subsection and distribute any surplus in the manner provided by  
531 this section for political committees other than those formed for ongoing  
532 political activities, except that if the surplus is from an exploratory  
533 committee established by the State Treasurer, any portion of the surplus  
534 that is received from a principal of an investment services firm or a  
535 political committee established by such firm shall be returned to such  
536 principal or committee on a prorated basis of contribution. In the event  
537 of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a statement thirty days after the  
538 decision or declaration with the [proper authority] State Elections  
539 Enforcement Commission and, thereafter, on the seventh day of each  
540 month following if on the last day of the previous month there was an  
541 increase or decrease in such deficit in excess of five hundred dollars  
542 from that reported on the last statement filed. The treasurer shall file  
543 supplemental statements until the deficit is eliminated. If the  
544 exploratory committee does not have a surplus or deficit, the statement  
545 filed after the candidate's declaration or decision shall be the last  
546 required statement. If a candidate certifies on the statement of  
547 organization for the exploratory committee pursuant to subsection (c) of  
548 section 9-604, as amended by this act, that the candidate will not be a  
549 candidate for the office of state representative and subsequently

550 establishes a candidate committee for the office of state representative,  
551 the treasurer of the candidate committee shall pay to the State Treasurer,  
552 for deposit in the General Fund, an amount equal to the portion of any  
553 contribution received by said exploratory committee that exceeded two  
554 hundred fifty dollars. As used in this subsection, "principal of an  
555 investment services firm" has the meaning set forth in subsection (e) of  
556 section 9-612 and "state office" has the same meaning set forth in  
557 subsection (e) of section 9-610.

558       Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 9-609 of the general statutes is  
559 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
560 *1, 2029*):

561       (a) The chairman of each party committee shall designate a treasurer  
562 and may designate a deputy treasurer, or in the case of a state central  
563 committee, not more than two deputy treasurers. The treasurer and any  
564 deputy treasurers so designated shall sign a statement accepting the  
565 designation, which shall be filed with the [proper authority] State  
566 Elections Enforcement Commission with the statement of designation  
567 required under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-602. No  
568 state central committee or town committee shall establish a committee  
569 other than a single party committee for purposes of this chapter. A party  
570 committee or a political committee organized for ongoing political  
571 activities shall form no other political committees, except that two or  
572 more such committees may join to form a political committee for the  
573 purpose of a single fund-raising event.

574       Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 9-703 of the general statutes is  
575 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
576 *1, 2029*):

577       (a) Each candidate for nomination or election to the office of state  
578 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of  
579 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
580 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, shall file  
581 an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The  
582 affidavit shall include a written certification that the candidate either

583 intends to abide by the expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election  
584 Program set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702, or does not intend  
585 to abide by said limits. If the candidate intends to abide by said limits,  
586 the affidavit shall also include written certifications (1) that the treasurer  
587 of the candidate committee for said candidate shall expend any moneys  
588 received from the Citizens' Election Fund in accordance with the  
589 provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by  
590 the State Elections Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of  
591 section 9-706, (2) that the candidate shall repay to the fund any such  
592 moneys that are not expended in accordance with subsection (g) of  
593 section 9-607 and said regulations, (3) that the candidate and the  
594 treasurer shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (1) of  
595 subsection (a) of section 9-711, and (4) stating the candidate's status as a  
596 major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate and, in the case  
597 of a major party or minor party candidate, the name of such party. The  
598 written certification described in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall  
599 be made by both the candidate and the treasurer of the candidate  
600 committee for said candidate. A candidate for nomination or election to  
601 any such office shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m.  
602 on the twenty-fifth day before the day of a primary, if applicable, or on  
603 the fortieth day before the day of the election for such office, except that  
604 in the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state  
605 representative, the candidate shall file such affidavit not later than four  
606 o'clock p.m. on the twenty-fifth day before the day of such special  
607 election. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a candidate  
608 who is not required to form a candidate committee pursuant to  
609 subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-604, as amended by  
610 this act, files a certification with the commission pursuant to subsection  
611 [(c)] (b) of section 9-603, as amended by this act, and does not intend to  
612 participate in the Citizens' Election Program shall not be required to file  
613 such affidavit of intent not to abide by the expenditure limits of said  
614 program. Any such candidate shall be referred to as a nonparticipating  
615 candidate, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

616 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 9-709 of the general statutes is  
617 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*

618 1, 2029):

619 (b) If a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Lieutenant  
 620 Governor is campaigning jointly with a candidate for nomination or  
 621 election to the office of Governor, the candidate committee and any  
 622 exploratory committee for the candidate for the office of Lieutenant  
 623 Governor shall be dissolved as of the applicable date set forth in  
 624 subsection (a) of this section. Not later than fifteen days after said date,  
 625 the treasurer of the candidate committee formed to aid or promote the  
 626 success of said candidate for nomination or election to the office of  
 627 Lieutenant Governor shall file a statement with the [proper authority]  
 628 State Elections Enforcement Commission under section 9-603, as  
 629 amended by this act, identifying all contributions received or  
 630 expenditures made by the committee since the previous statement and  
 631 the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. Not later than thirty  
 632 days after the applicable date set forth in subsection (a) of this section,  
 633 (1) the treasurer of a qualified candidate committee formed to aid or  
 634 promote the success of said candidate for nomination or election to the  
 635 office of Lieutenant Governor shall distribute any surplus to the fund,  
 636 and (2) the treasurer of a nonqualified candidate committee formed to  
 637 aid or promote the success of said candidate for nomination or election  
 638 to the office of Lieutenant Governor shall distribute such surplus in  
 639 accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 9-608, as  
 640 amended by this act.

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

Section 1	January 1, 2029	9-603
Sec. 2	January 1, 2029	9-604
Sec. 3	January 1, 2029	9-608(d)
Sec. 4	January 1, 2029	9-610(f)(2)
Sec. 5	January 1, 2029	9-623(b)
Sec. 6	January 1, 2029	9-624
Sec. 7	January 1, 2029	9-675
Sec. 8	January 1, 2029	9-602(b) and (c)
Sec. 9	January 1, 2029	9-605(a)
Sec. 10	January 1, 2029	9-605(c)

Sec. 11	January 1, 2029	9-607(m)
Sec. 12	January 1, 2029	9-608(a)
Sec. 13	January 1, 2029	9-608(e)(3) and (4)
Sec. 14	January 1, 2029	9-608(f)
Sec. 15	January 1, 2029	9-609(a)
Sec. 16	January 1, 2029	9-703(a)
Sec. 17	January 1, 2029	9-709(b)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), "covered persons" was changed to "persons covered under said chapters" for clarity; in Section 7(d), "of candidates" was added in the first sentence for clarity; and in Section 7(e), "a candidate" and "or candidate" were added 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	None	None
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill centralizes record keeping of municipal campaign filings within the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) beginning in 2029 and results in no fiscal impact to the state in FY 26 and FY 27.

### **The Out Years**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$	FY 30 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Cost	167,489	167,489	167,489
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Cost	68,185	68,185	68,185

Note: GF=General Fund

There is an out-year's impact beginning in FY 28. The implementation of the bill will require the hiring of two additional positions including

<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.

one IT Analyst I, and one Election Officer to facilitate the additional campaign filings at an expected cost of \$167,489 in salary and \$68,185 in fringe beginning in FY 28.

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1409*****AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following changes in the campaign finance laws:

1. requires various entities to file certain campaign financial disclosure statements related to municipal elections with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), rather than the town clerk;
2. requires that municipal campaign financial disclosure statements and all registration statements be filed with SEEC through a web-based program (i.e. eCRIS); and
3. modifies an existing exemption for refiling registration statements for certain political committees to conform to these changes and current practice.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2029

**MUNICIPAL FILINGS**

The bill requires the following entities to file financial disclosure statements or exemption certifications with SEEC rather than with the town clerk:

1. exploratory, candidate, and political state committees for municipal candidates;
2. political committees for referendum questions to be voted on by a single municipality; and



3. a slate of candidates in a primary election for justice of the peace.

If a slate of candidates for the office of justice of the peace unanimously agrees to be financed solely by a town committee, the bill requires the committee to file a consent statement with SEEC instead of the town clerk. By law, unchanged by the bill, if a consent statement is filed, the slate is exempt from political committee requirements (CGS § 9-605).

Existing law establishes deadlines for treasurers to file candidate committee statements or an exemption from these requirements. Failing to do so subjects the treasurer or candidate to a late filing fee of \$100. The bill allows SEEC to waive these fees for any municipal candidate or treasurer who is participating in a primary or election for municipal office in 2029.

Additionally, since these statements will no longer be filed with the town clerks, the bill makes conforming changes and replaces related requirements that SEEC prepare, print, and provide campaign financial disclosure forms to the town clerks and that unsalaried town clerks receive 10 cents from the town for each filing. As under existing law, SEEC must still prepare, print, and distribute these forms to candidates and treasurers by request. SEEC must also print and distribute these forms to treasurers who have received a waiver to file electronically.

The bill also removes obsolete language referencing individual lobbyists filing with SEEC. In practice, lobbyists register with the Office of State Ethics (CGS § 1-94).

## **ELECTRONIC FILING**

The bill also requires that the following statements be filed via a web-based program created by SEEC (i.e. eCRIS): (1) municipal campaign financial disclosure statements for candidate and exploratory committees, (2) all registration statements, and (3) amendments to electronically filed statements. The bill specifies that any amendment must be filed within (1) 10 days after the addition or change or (2) the period of time otherwise required by law.

Existing law already requires the use of eCRIS for certain entities: (1) treasurers for candidates and committees for certain state offices and (2) committees required to file with the commission. Additionally, under current law, registration statements must be filed electronically or manually with the proper authority (i.e. SEEC or the town clerk). The law also allows SEEC to waive the requirement to file electronically for good cause.

## **REGISTRATION EXEMPTION**

The bill also modifies an existing exemption to the requirement that certain political committees reregister with SEEC. Under current law, political committees required to file with SEEC must file a registration statement (1) within 10 days after organization and (2) by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The bill narrows this exemption to political committees established solely for (1) aiding or promoting candidates for municipal office or (2) the success or defeat of a referendum question. (These committees are generally not subject to the refiling requirement as they rarely last longer than one election.)

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

sHB 7221, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, contains identical provisions.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    12    Nay    0    (03/18/2025)