

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1407

AN ACT CONCERNING AUDITS CONDUCTED BY THE STATE ELECTIONS

Title: ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Oversight Committee
Sen Sampson

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires all random audits by SEEC following an election or primary to be open to the public. It clarifies that SEEC is required to complete and issue findings concerning a post-primary or post-election audit of a campaign within 12 months of receiving all necessary information. This bill also requires SEEC to submit an annual report, beginning January 1, 2026, to the Government Oversight Committee concerning whether there were any audits during the preceding calendar year that the commission was unable to complete during that time, and the reasons for the inability to complete such audits.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Josh Foley: Staff Attorney, CT State Elections Enforcement Commission:

Opposes this bill because SEEC would be unable to fulfil their obligations under this proposed legislation without taking on more staff. Mr. Foley feels that If the legislature wishes to speed up audits there is a very simple adjustment it could make. Return the termination date for committees selected for audit to January 31 the year after the election.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Susan Bradford: Citizen/Resident:

Supports this bill as it will streamline the audit process and increase public transparency.

Linda Dalessio: Doctor:

Generic support of bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Cheri Quickmire: Executive Director, Common Cause CT, Alex Knopp, Board member, Common Cause CT:

They oppose this legislation because they deem the timeline laid out under the proposed provisions too unreasonable given their current resources, but agree with the intent of this bill

Pamela Klem: Campaign Finance Specialist, League of Women Voters of CT:

Opposes this bill because the provision regarding audits of committees does not account for the fact that some committees are much larger and require more laborious audits which could be a drain on resources. Additionally, some vague language could be difficult to enforce and could lead to legal challenges down the road.

Reported by: Greg Wolff, Griffin Olshan

Date: 3/20/25