



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Substitute Bill No. 1405**



**AN ACT MODIFYING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND THE POWERS OF THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (25) and (26) of section 9-601 of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (25) "Organization expenditure" means an expenditure by a party  
5 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
6 committee for the benefit of a candidate or candidate committee for:

7 (A) The preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a  
8 party candidate listing, including the electronic sharing, posting or  
9 forwarding of content created by a candidate committee or other  
10 committee on behalf of a candidate, the use of a personal electronic mail  
11 list or an existing electronic mail account for such purposes and other  
12 similar de minimis activity that may or may not be related to  
13 fundraising. As used in this subparagraph, "party candidate listing"  
14 means any communication that meets the following criteria: (i) The  
15 communication lists the name or names of candidates for election to  
16 public office, (ii) the communication is distributed through public  
17 advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers or  
18 similar media, or through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail,  
19 publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery, and (iii) the

20 communication is made to promote the success or defeat of any  
21 candidate or slate of candidates seeking the nomination for election, or  
22 election or for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat  
23 of any referendum question or the success or defeat of any political  
24 party, provided such communication is not a solicitation for or on behalf  
25 of a candidate committee;

26 (B) A document in printed or electronic form, including a party  
27 platform, an electronic page providing merchant account services to be  
28 used by a candidate for the collection of on-line contributions, a copy of  
29 an issue paper, information pertaining to the requirements of this title,  
30 a list of registered voters and voter identification information, which  
31 document is created or maintained by a party committee, legislative  
32 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee for the general  
33 purposes of party or caucus building and is provided (i) to a candidate  
34 who is a member of the party that has established such party committee,  
35 or (ii) to a candidate who is a member of the party of the caucus or leader  
36 who has established such legislative caucus committee or legislative  
37 leadership committee, whichever is applicable;

38 (C) A campaign event at which campaign materials are present and  
39 food or beverage may be provided, but at which no contribution shall  
40 be received, solicited or bundled; or

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

43 (26) "Solicit" means (A) requesting that a contribution be made, (B)  
44 participating in any fundraising activities for a candidate committee,  
45 exploratory committee, political committee or party committee,  
46 including, but not limited to, forwarding tickets to potential  
47 contributors, receiving contributions for transmission to any such  
48 committee, serving on the committee that is hosting a fundraising event,  
49 introducing the candidate or making other public remarks at a  
50 fundraising event, being honored or otherwise recognized at a  
51 fundraising event, or bundling contributions, (C) serving as

52 chairperson, treasurer or deputy treasurer of any such committee, or (D)  
53 establishing a political committee for the sole purpose of soliciting or  
54 receiving contributions for any committee. "Solicit" does not include (i)  
55 making a contribution that is otherwise permitted under this chapter,  
56 (ii) informing any person of a position taken by a candidate for public  
57 office or a public official, (iii) notifying the person of any activities of, or  
58 contact information for, any candidate for public office, (iv) serving as a  
59 member in any party committee or as an officer of such committee that  
60 is not otherwise prohibited in this subdivision, [or] (v) mere attendance  
61 at a [fundraiser] fundraising event, or (vi) electronically sharing a link  
62 to a fundraising Internet web site or an invitation to a fundraising event,  
63 if shared by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
64 legislative leadership committee.

65 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 9-621 of the general  
66 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
67 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

68 (a) No individual shall make or incur any expenditure with the  
69 consent of, in coordination with or in consultation with any candidate,  
70 candidate committee or candidate's agent, no group of two or more  
71 individuals acting together that receives funds or makes or incurs  
72 expenditures not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and  
73 has not formed a political committee shall make or incur any  
74 expenditure, and no candidate or committee shall make or incur any  
75 expenditure including an organization expenditure for a party  
76 candidate listing, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of  
77 section 9-601, as amended by this act, for any written, typed or other  
78 printed communication, [or] any web-based, written communication or  
79 any text message communication, which promotes the success or defeat  
80 of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or  
81 promotes or opposes any political party or solicits funds to benefit any  
82 political party or committee unless such communication bears upon its  
83 face as a disclaimer (1) the words "paid for by" and the following: (A) In  
84 the case of such an individual, the name and address of such individual;  
85 (B) [in the case of a committee other than a party committee, the name

86 of the committee and its treasurer; (C)] in the case of a [party] committee,  
87 the name of the committee; or [(D)] (C) in the case of a group of two or  
88 more individuals that receives funds or makes or incurs expenditures  
89 not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and has not formed  
90 a political committee, the name of the group and the name and address  
91 of its agent, and (2) the words "approved by" and the following: (A) In  
92 the case of an individual, group or committee other than a candidate  
93 committee making or incurring an expenditure with the consent of, in  
94 coordination with or in consultation with any candidate, candidate  
95 committee or candidate's agent, the name of the candidate; or (B) in the  
96 case of a candidate committee, the name of the candidate. For any text  
97 message communication, the appearance of such a disclaimer in an  
98 initial text message or the display of a link within the body of such  
99 message to an Internet web site where such a disclaimer appears shall  
100 be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

101 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section:

102 (1) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee  
103 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for  
104 television advertising or Internet video advertising, which promotes the  
105 success of such candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or  
106 election or the defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at  
107 a primary or election, unless, as a disclaimer, (A) [at the end of] during  
108 such advertising there appears simultaneously, for a period of not less  
109 than four seconds, (i) a clearly identifiable photographic or similar  
110 image of the candidate making such expenditure, and (ii) a clearly  
111 readable printed statement identifying such candidate [,] and indicating  
112 that such candidate has approved the advertising, [and (iii) a  
113 simultaneous, personal audio message, in the following form: "I am ....  
114 (candidate's name) and I approved this message",] and (B) the  
115 candidate's name and image appear in [, and the candidate's voice is  
116 contained in,] the narrative of the advertising, before the end of such  
117 advertising;

118 (2) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee

119 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for radio  
120 advertising or Internet audio advertising, which promotes the success  
121 of such candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or  
122 the defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary  
123 or election, unless, as a disclaimer, (A) the advertising ends with a  
124 personal audio statement by the candidate making such expenditure (i)  
125 identifying such candidate and the office such candidate is seeking, and  
126 (ii) indicating that such candidate has approved the advertising in the  
127 following form: "I am .... (candidate's name) and I approved this  
128 message", and (B) the candidate's name and voice are contained in the  
129 narrative of the advertising, before the end of such advertising; and

130 (3) No candidate or candidate committee or exploratory committee  
131 established by a candidate shall make or incur any expenditure for  
132 automated telephone calls which promote the success of such  
133 candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or the  
134 defeat of another candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or  
135 election, unless the candidate's name and voice are contained in the  
136 narrative of the call, before the end of such call.

137 (c) No business entity, organization, association, committee, or group  
138 of two or more individuals who have joined solely to promote the  
139 success or defeat of a referendum question shall make or incur any  
140 expenditure for any written, typed or other printed communication  
141 which promotes the success or defeat of any referendum question unless  
142 such communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words  
143 "paid for by" and the following: (1) In the case of a business entity,  
144 organization or association, the name of the business entity,  
145 organization or association and the name of its chief executive officer or  
146 equivalent, and in the case such communication is made during the  
147 ninety-day period immediately prior to the referendum, such  
148 communication shall also bear on its face the names of the five persons  
149 who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to such business  
150 entity, organization or association during the twelve-month period  
151 immediately prior to such referendum. The communication shall also  
152 state that additional information about the business entity, organization

153 or association making such communication may be found on the State  
154 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site; (2) [in the case  
155 of a political committee, the name of the committee and the name of its  
156 treasurer; (3)] in the case of a political committee or a party committee,  
157 the name of the committee; or [(4)] (3) in the case of such a group of two  
158 or more individuals, the name of the group and the name and address  
159 of its agent.

160 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is  
161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
162 *2025*):

163 (h) (1) No person shall make or incur an independent expenditure for  
164 any written, typed or other printed communication, including on a  
165 billboard, or any web-based, written communication, unless such  
166 communication bears upon its face, as a disclaimer, the words "Paid for  
167 by" and the name of such person and the following statement: "This  
168 message was made independent of any candidate or political party.". In  
169 the case of a person making or incurring such an independent  
170 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the  
171 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,  
172 such communication shall also bear upon its face the names of the five  
173 persons who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the  
174 person making such communication during the twelve-month period  
175 immediately prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The  
176 communication shall also state that additional information about the  
177 person making such communication may be found on the State  
178 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site.

179 (2) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this  
180 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure  
181 for a video broadcast by television, satellite or Internet, unless at the end  
182 of such advertising there appears for a period of not less than four  
183 seconds as a disclaimer, the following as [an audio message and] a  
184 written statement: "This message was paid for by (person making the  
185 communication) and made independent of any candidate or political

186 party.". In the case of a person making or incurring such an independent  
187 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the  
188 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,  
189 such communication shall also list the names of the five persons who  
190 made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the person making  
191 such communication during the twelve-month period immediately  
192 prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The communication  
193 shall also state that additional information about the person making  
194 such communication may be found on the State Elections Enforcement  
195 Commission's Internet web site.

196 (3) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this  
197 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure  
198 for an audio communication broadcast by radio, satellite or Internet,  
199 unless the advertising ends with a disclaimer that is a personal audio  
200 statement by such person's agent (A) identifying the person paying for  
201 the expenditure, and (B) indicating that the message was made  
202 independent of any candidate or political party, using the following  
203 form: "I am .... (name of the person's agent), .... (title), of .... (the person).  
204 This message was made independent of any candidate or political  
205 party.". In the case of a person making or incurring such an independent  
206 expenditure during the ninety-day period immediately prior to the  
207 primary or election for which the independent expenditure is made,  
208 such communication shall state the names of the five persons who made  
209 the five largest aggregate covered transfers to the person making such  
210 communication during the twelve-month period immediately prior to  
211 such primary or election, as applicable. The communication shall also  
212 state that additional information about the person making such  
213 communication may be found on the State Elections Enforcement  
214 Commission's Internet web site.

215 (4) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this  
216 subsection, no person shall make or incur an independent expenditure  
217 for telephone calls, unless the narrative of the telephone call identifies  
218 the person making the expenditure and during the ninety-day period  
219 immediately prior to the primary or election for which the independent

220 expenditure is made, such communication shall state the names of the  
221 five persons who made the five largest aggregate covered transfers to  
222 the person making such communication during the twelve-month  
223 period immediately prior to such primary or election, as applicable. The  
224 communication shall also state that additional information about the  
225 person making such communication may be found on the State  
226 Elections Enforcement Commission's Internet web site.

227 Sec. 4. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section  
228 9-7b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted  
229 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

230 (B) When conducting an audit after an election or primary, the  
231 commission shall randomly audit not more than [fifty] twenty per cent  
232 of candidate committees, which shall be selected through the process of  
233 a weighted lottery conducted by the commission that takes into account  
234 the selection frequency of a district served by the office of state senator  
235 or state representative, as applicable, for the immediately preceding  
236 three regular elections for such office and increases or decreases the  
237 likelihood that such district will be selected for audit based on such  
238 selection frequency, except that the commissioner shall audit all  
239 candidate committees for candidates for a state-wide office.

240 Sec. 5. Subdivision (14) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the general  
241 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
242 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

243 (14) To (A) adopt and publish regulations and issue declaratory  
244 rulings pursuant to chapter 54 to carry out the provisions of section 9-  
245 7a, as amended by this act, this section, and chapters 155 and 157, [; to]  
246 (B) issue upon request and publish advisory opinions in the Connecticut  
247 Law Journal upon the requirements of chapters 155 and 157, (C) subject  
248 to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, issue and publish  
249 guidance documents relating to the requirements of chapters 155 and  
250 157, and [to] (D) make recommendations to the General Assembly  
251 concerning suggested revisions of the election laws, except that the



252 commission shall not issue any declaratory ruling or advisory opinion  
253 relating to the provisions of chapter 157 during the one-hundred-eighty-  
254 day period immediately preceding a state election, provided nothing in  
255 this subdivision shall be construed to limit the commission's ability  
256 during such period to provide general guidance and clarification  
257 relating to the provisions of said chapter;

258       Sec. 6. Section 9-7b of the general statutes is amended by adding  
259 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

260       (NEW) (c) On and after July 1, 2025, prior to the issuance and  
261 publication of any new guidance document relating to the requirements  
262 of chapters 155 and 157, or the revision of any such existing guidance  
263 document, the commission shall submit such guidance document to the  
264 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
265 matters relating to government oversight, which shall hold a public  
266 hearing on such guidance document within thirty days after the date of  
267 submittal to such committee. The commission shall include with the  
268 guidance document a summary of the changes in the law the  
269 commission is proposing to clarify through such guidance document.  
270 Such committee may reject such guidance document by a majority vote.  
271 If such committee fails to vote to approve or reject such guidance  
272 document within thirty days after the date of submittal to such  
273 committee, such guidance document shall be deemed approved and the  
274 commission may issue and publish such guidance document.

275       Sec. 7. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 9-704 of the general  
276 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
277 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

278       (c) (1) [For] Subject to the provisions of subdivision (3) of this  
279 subsection, for elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
280 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or  
281 Secretary of the State held in [2022] 2026, and thereafter, the two-  
282 hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in  
283 subdivision (1) or (2) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as

284 applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
285 Commission not later than [January 15, 2022] December 30, 2025, and  
286 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the  
287 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
288 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
289 the period beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 16, 2016, and  
290 ending on December [thirty-first] fifteenth in [the year preceding] the  
291 year in which said adjustment is to be made.

292 (2) [For] (A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (3) of this  
293 subsection, for elections for the office of state senator or state  
294 representative held in 2020, and thereafter until December 31, 2025, the  
295 two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual contribution amount in  
296 subdivision (3) or (4) [, as applicable,] of subsection (a) of this section, as  
297 applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
298 Commission not later than January 15, 2020, and biennially thereafter,  
299 in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban  
300 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,  
301 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1,  
302 2017, and ending on December thirty-first in the year preceding the year  
303 in which said adjustment is to be made.

304 (B) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, for  
305 elections for the office of state senator or state representative held in  
306 2026, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar maximum individual  
307 contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this  
308 section, as applicable, shall be adjusted by the State Elections  
309 Enforcement Commission not later than December 30, 2025, and  
310 biennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer  
311 price index for all urban consumers as published by the United States  
312 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period  
313 beginning on December 16, 2016, and ending on December fifteenth in  
314 the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

315 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, on  
316 and after December 30, 2025, the maximum individual contribution

317 amount resulting from any adjustment made by the State Elections  
318 Enforcement Commission, pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
319 subsection, as applicable, shall remain in effect until the immediately  
320 following adjustment is made by the commission, at which time a new  
321 maximum individual contribution amount shall take effect.

322 (B) In the event that any adjustment made by the State Elections  
323 Enforcement Commission, pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
324 subsection, as applicable, results in a new maximum individual  
325 contribution amount that would be less than the maximum individual  
326 contribution amount that resulted from the immediately preceding  
327 adjustment, (i) such new maximum individual contribution amount  
328 shall not take effect, and (ii) the maximum individual contribution  
329 amount that resulted from the immediately preceding adjustment shall  
330 remain in effect until the next adjustment made by the commission  
331 pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, as applicable.

332 (d) Each individual who makes a contribution of more than fifty  
333 dollars to a candidate committee established to aid or promote the  
334 success of a participating candidate for nomination or election shall  
335 include with the contribution a certification that contains the same  
336 information described in subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 9-  
337 608 and shall follow the same procedure prescribed in said subsection.

338 (e) (1) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying  
339 contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall be returned  
340 to the contributor by the treasurer of the candidate committee [to the  
341 contributor or transmitted to] or by the State Elections Enforcement  
342 Commission [for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund] in accordance  
343 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 9-706,  
344 as amended by this act:

345 [(1)] (A) A contribution from a principal of a state contractor or  
346 prospective state contractor;

347 [(2)] (B) A contribution of less than five dollars; [, and a contribution  
348 of five dollars or more from an individual who does not provide the full

349 name and complete address of the individual;]

350 ~~[(3)]~~ ~~(C)~~ A contribution under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a)  
351 of this section from an individual who does not reside in the state, in  
352 excess of the applicable limit on contributions from out-of-state  
353 individuals in subsection (a) of this section; and

354 ~~[(4)]~~ ~~(D)~~ A contribution made by a youth who is less than twelve years  
355 of age.

356 (2) A contribution of five dollars or more from an individual who  
357 does not provide the full name and complete address of such individual  
358 shall not be deemed to be a qualifying contribution under subsection (a)  
359 of this section and shall be returned to the contributor by the treasurer  
360 of the candidate committee, if practicable, or transmitted to the State  
361 Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election  
362 Fund.

363 Sec. 8. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-706 of the general  
364 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
365 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

366 (b) The application shall include a written certification that:

367 (1) The candidate committee has received the required amount of  
368 qualifying contributions;

369 (2) The candidate committee has repaid all moneys borrowed on  
370 behalf of the campaign, as required by subsection (b) of section 9-710;

371 (3) The candidate committee has returned, whenever practicable, any  
372 contribution of five dollars or more from an individual who does not  
373 include the individual's name and address with the contribution;

374 (4) The candidate committee has ~~[returned]~~ taken reasonable efforts  
375 to return all contributions or portions of contributions that do not meet  
376 the criteria for qualifying contributions under section 9-704, as amended  
377 by this act, and has transmitted all excess qualifying contributions to the

378 Citizens' Election Fund;

379 (5) The treasurer of the candidate committee will: (A) Comply with  
380 the provisions of chapter 155 and this chapter, and (B) maintain and  
381 furnish all records required pursuant to chapter 155 and this chapter  
382 and any regulation adopted pursuant to such chapters;

383 (6) All moneys received from the Citizens' Election Fund will be  
384 deposited upon receipt into the depository account of the candidate  
385 committee;

386 (7) The treasurer of the candidate committee will expend all moneys  
387 received from the fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection  
388 (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by the State Elections  
389 Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of this section;

390 (8) If the candidate withdraws from the campaign, becomes ineligible  
391 or dies during the campaign, the candidate committee of the candidate  
392 will return to the commission, for deposit in the fund, all moneys  
393 received from the fund pursuant to sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive,  
394 which said candidate committee has not spent as of the date of such  
395 occurrence;

396 (9) All outstanding civil penalties or forfeitures assessed pursuant to  
397 chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, against the current or any former  
398 committee of the candidate have been paid, provided (A) in the case of  
399 any candidate seeking nomination for or election to the office of  
400 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
401 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, any such penalty or forfeiture  
402 was assessed not later than twenty-four months prior to the submission  
403 of an application pursuant to this section; or (B) in the case of any  
404 candidate seeking nomination for or election to the office of state senator  
405 or state representative, any such penalty or forfeiture was assessed not  
406 later than twelve months prior to the submission of an application  
407 pursuant to this section;

408 (10) The treasurer has paid any civil penalties or forfeitures assessed

409 pursuant to chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, and has not been convicted  
410 of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of competent  
411 jurisdiction, any (A) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny,  
412 embezzlement or bribery, or (B) criminal offense under this title, unless  
413 at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the conviction or plea  
414 or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is later, without a  
415 subsequent conviction of or plea to another such felony or offense;

416 (11) The candidate has not been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
417 contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, a criminal offense  
418 under this title unless at least eight years have elapsed from the date of  
419 the conviction or plea or the completion of any sentence, whichever date  
420 is later, without a subsequent conviction of or plea to another such  
421 offense; and

422 (12) The candidate has never been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
423 contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, a felony related to  
424 the individual's public office, other than a criminal offense under this  
425 title in accordance with subdivision (11) of this subsection.

426 (c) The application shall be accompanied by a cumulative itemized  
427 accounting of all funds received, expenditures made and expenses  
428 incurred but not yet paid by the candidate committee as of three days  
429 preceding the day the application is filed. Such accounting shall be  
430 sworn to under penalty of false statement by the treasurer of the  
431 candidate committee. The commission shall prescribe the form of the  
432 application and the cumulative itemized accounting. The form for such  
433 accounting shall conform to the requirements of section 9-608. Both the  
434 candidate and the treasurer of the candidate committee shall sign the  
435 application.

436 (d) (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this  
437 section, the commission shall review the application [,] and determine  
438 whether [(1)] (A) the candidate committee for the applicant has received  
439 the required qualifying contributions, [(2)] (B) in the case of an  
440 application for a grant from the fund for a convention campaign, the

441 applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this  
442 section for applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of  
443 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, [(3)] (C) in the case of an  
444 application for a grant from the fund for a primary campaign, the  
445 applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this  
446 section for applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of  
447 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, [(4)] (D) in the case of an  
448 application for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign,  
449 the applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of  
450 this section for applying for such grant and complied with the  
451 provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, and [(5)] (E) in the  
452 case of an application by a minor party or petitioning party candidate  
453 for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign, the applicant  
454 qualifies as an eligible minor party candidate or an eligible petitioning  
455 party candidate, whichever is applicable.

456 (2) During such review of the application:

457 (A) If the commission deems a contribution received by the candidate  
458 committee not to be a qualifying contribution, the commission shall  
459 advise the treasurer of the candidate committee of such determination  
460 and cite the applicable reason under subsection (e) of section 9-704, as  
461 amended by this act, for such determination and shall return the  
462 contribution to the contributor based on the information provided on  
463 the applicable contribution certification form;

464 (B) There shall be a presumption that information provided on a  
465 contribution certification form is true and correct, which presumption  
466 may only be rebutted by proof otherwise based on a prior investigative  
467 finding of the commission; and

468 (C) The commission shall not disqualify any contribution from being  
469 counted as a qualifying contribution for reason that (i) the residential  
470 address associated with such contribution does not match the billing  
471 address associated with such contribution, or (ii) such contribution was  
472 made in response to an electronically shared link to a fundraising

473 Internet web site or invitation to a fundraising event.

474 (3) If the commission approves an application, the commission shall  
475 determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate committee  
476 for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705 from the fund, and notify the  
477 State Comptroller and the candidate of such candidate committee of  
478 such amount. In so notifying the State Comptroller, the commission  
479 shall (A) ensure that the qualified candidate committee of an applicant  
480 is entitled to a full grant for the general election campaign only if (i) the  
481 applicant's written certification under subsection (b) of this section  
482 affirms that such committee received the required qualifying  
483 contributions under section 9-704, as amended by this act, prior to the  
484 seventieth day before the election, and (ii) the cumulative itemized  
485 accounting under subsection (c) of this section demonstrates that the  
486 applicant reasonably believes such written certification to be true and  
487 correct, and (B) advise the State Comptroller accordingly. If the timing  
488 of the commission's approval of the grant for a primary campaign or  
489 general election campaign in relation to the Secretary of the State's  
490 determination of ballot status is such that the commission cannot  
491 determine whether the qualified candidate committee is entitled to the  
492 applicable full initial grant for the primary or election or the applicable  
493 partial grant for the primary or election, as the case may be, the  
494 commission shall approve the lesser applicable partial initial grant. The  
495 commission shall then authorize the payment of the remaining portion  
496 of the applicable primary campaign or general election campaign grant  
497 after the commission has knowledge of the circumstances regarding the  
498 ballot status of the opposing candidates in such primary or election. Not  
499 later than thirty days following notification by the commission in the  
500 case of a convention campaign grant, or not later than two business days  
501 following notification by the commission in the case of any other grant,  
502 the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the State Treasurer for  
503 payment of any such approved amount to the qualified candidate  
504 committee from the fund.

505 Sec. 9. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 9-7a of the general  
506 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof



507 (Effective July 1, 2025):

508 (b) (1) A vacancy in the commission shall not impair the right of the  
509 remaining members to exercise all the powers of the commission, and  
510 three members of said commission shall constitute a quorum.

511 (2) All meetings of the commission, noticed in accordance with the  
512 provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-  
513 200, shall be broadcast contemporaneously and continuously on an  
514 Internet web site identified in such notice. Such Internet web site shall  
515 not require that any member of the public (A) create an account to access  
516 such Internet web site, or (B) affirmatively reconnect to such broadcast  
517 after an interruption due to the commission holding an executive  
518 session. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require the  
519 broadcast of any portion of a meeting during which the commission is  
520 holding an executive session.

521 (c) The commission shall at the close of each fiscal year report to the  
522 General Assembly and the Governor concerning the action it has taken  
523 including, but not limited to a list of all complaints investigated by the  
524 commission and the disposition of each such complaint, by voting  
525 districts, where the alleged violation occurred; the names, salaries and  
526 duties of the individuals in its employ and the money it has disbursed;  
527 and shall make such further reports on the matters within its jurisdiction  
528 and such recommendations for further legislation as may appear  
529 desirable.

530 (d) [The] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
531 the commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, employ  
532 such employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
533 section, section 9-7b, as amended by this act, and section 9-623,  
534 including an executive director, and may apply to the Commissioner of  
535 Emergency Services and Public Protection or to the Chief State's  
536 Attorney for necessary investigatory personnel, which the same are  
537 hereby authorized to provide.

538 (2) (A) On or before March 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the

539 commission shall, with the advice and consent of either house of the  
540 General Assembly, appoint an executive director in the manner  
541 prescribed in this subdivision, to serve at the pleasure of the commission  
542 but not longer than four years after such appointment, unless  
543 reappointed under the provisions of this subdivision.

544 (B) On or before February 1, 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, the  
545 commission shall submit a nomination for executive director to either  
546 house of the General Assembly. Such house shall immediately refer the  
547 nomination to its committee on executive nominations, which shall  
548 report thereon by resolution within fifteen calendar days from the date  
549 of reference. Such house, by resolution, shall confirm or reject the  
550 nomination. If confirmed, the nominee shall take office on the first day  
551 of March in the year in which the appointment is submitted. If such  
552 house rejects the nomination before the first day of March in the year in  
553 which it is submitted, the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of  
554 this subdivision shall be followed.

555 (C) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the  
556 General Assembly is in regular session, the commission shall, not later  
557 than thirty days after the occurrence of the vacancy, submit its  
558 nomination to fill the vacancy to either house of the General Assembly.  
559 The house to which the nomination is submitted shall immediately refer  
560 the nomination to its committee on executive nominations, which shall  
561 report thereon by resolution within fifteen legislative days from the date  
562 of reference. Such house shall confirm or reject such nomination. If such  
563 house, by resolution, confirms the nomination within thirty calendar  
564 days after it is submitted, the nominee shall forthwith take office to serve  
565 at the pleasure of the commission but not longer than the original  
566 appointee could have served under his or her appointment. If such  
567 house rejects the nomination within thirty calendar days after it is  
568 submitted, the commission shall, within thirty calendar days, submit  
569 another nomination to either house of the General Assembly, provided,  
570 if any nomination is submitted less than thirty calendar days before the  
571 date established by the Constitution for adjournment of the General  
572 Assembly, and the house to which it is submitted fails to confirm or

573 reject the nomination before such adjournment on said date, the  
574 procedure prescribed in subparagraph (D) of this subdivision shall be  
575 followed.

576 (D) If a vacancy occurs in the office of executive director while the  
577 General Assembly is not in regular session, it shall be filled by the  
578 commission until the sixth Wednesday of the next session of the General  
579 Assembly. At the beginning of the next regular session of the General  
580 Assembly, the commission shall submit the name of the vacancy  
581 appointee to either house of the General Assembly as said commission  
582 elects and the procedure prescribed in subparagraph (C) of this  
583 subdivision shall be followed.

584 (E) No person who has been rejected by resolution of the house to  
585 which his or her name has been submitted by the commission shall serve  
586 in the office of executive director during the term of the house which  
587 rejected him or her.

588 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes is  
589 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
590 *passage*):

591 (b) As used in this chapter and chapter 157, "contribution" does not  
592 mean:

593 (1) A loan of money made in the ordinary course of business by a  
594 national or state bank;

595 (2) Any communication made by a corporation, organization or  
596 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
597 administrative personnel, or their families;

598 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by  
599 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,  
600 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
601 families;

602 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering

603 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate  
604 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for  
605 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the  
606 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made  
607 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to  
608 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is  
609 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such  
610 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation  
611 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be  
612 performed in the future;

613 (5) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of  
614 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by  
615 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or  
616 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a  
617 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
618 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room  
619 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative  
620 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
621 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed [~~four~~] five  
622 hundred dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed  
623 [~~eight hundred~~] one thousand dollars for any such event hosted by two  
624 or more individuals, provided at least one such individual owns or  
625 resides at the residential premises, and further provided the cumulative  
626 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
627 behalf of any such candidate or committee does not exceed [~~eight~~  
628 hundred] one thousand dollars with respect to a calendar year or single  
629 election, as the case may be;

630 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use by a party, political, slate or  
631 candidate committee, including those for a participating or  
632 nonparticipating candidate, at a discount, if the charge is not less than  
633 the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative value of the  
634 discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate committee does  
635 not exceed four hundred dollars with respect to any single primary or  
636 election, or to or on behalf of any party, political or slate committee, does

637 not exceed six hundred dollars in a calendar year;

638 (7) The display of a lawn sign by a human being or on real property;

639 (8) The payment, by a party committee or slate committee of the costs  
640 of preparation, display, mailing or other distribution incurred by the  
641 committee or individual with respect to any printed slate card, sample  
642 ballot or other printed list containing the names of three or more  
643 candidates;

644 (9) The donation of any item of personal property by an individual to  
645 a committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, or  
646 the purchase by an individual of any such item at such an affair, to the  
647 extent that the cumulative value donated or purchased does not exceed  
648 one hundred dollars;

649 (10) (A) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
650 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair sponsored by the  
651 candidate committee of a candidate for an office of a municipality,  
652 provided the cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two  
653 hundred fifty dollars from any single such candidate or the candidate's  
654 committee with respect to any single election campaign if the purchaser  
655 is a business entity or fifty dollars for purchases by any other person;

656 (B) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
657 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a fund-  
658 raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political committee,  
659 other than an exploratory committee, provided the cumulative purchase  
660 of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars from any single  
661 party committee or a political committee, other than an exploratory  
662 committee, in any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity or  
663 fifty dollars for purchases by any other person. Notwithstanding the  
664 provisions of this subparagraph, the following may not purchase  
665 advertising space in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a  
666 fund-raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political  
667 committee, other than an exploratory committee: (i) A communicator  
668 lobbyist, (ii) a member of the immediate family of a communicator

669 lobbyist, (iii) a state contractor, (iv) a prospective state contractor, or (v)  
670 a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor. As used  
671 in this subparagraph, "state contractor", "prospective state contractor"  
672 and "principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" have  
673 the same meanings as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-612;

674 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to the candidate's  
675 candidate committee, provided the committee is for a nonparticipating  
676 candidate;

677 (12) The donation of goods or services by a business entity to a  
678 committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, to  
679 the extent that the cumulative value donated does not exceed two  
680 hundred dollars;

681 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a telephone  
682 company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications service for  
683 a committee or to another utility company, such as an electric  
684 distribution company, provided the security deposit is refunded to the  
685 individual;

686 (14) The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial  
687 support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television  
688 company, as defined in section 16-1, for community access  
689 programming pursuant to section 16-331a, unless (A) the major purpose  
690 of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to influence  
691 the nomination or election of a candidate, or (B) such facilities,  
692 equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a political party;

693 (15) The sale of food or beverage by a town committee to an  
694 individual at a town fair, county fair, local festival or similar mass  
695 gathering held within the state, to the extent that the cumulative  
696 payment made by any one individual for such items does not exceed  
697 fifty dollars;

698 (16) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative  
699 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

700 (17) The donation of food or beverage by an individual for  
701 consumption at a slate, candidate, political committee or party  
702 committee meeting, event or activity that is not a fund-raising affair to  
703 the extent that the cumulative value of the food or beverages donated  
704 by an individual for a single meeting or event does not exceed fifty  
705 dollars;

706 (18) The value associated with the de minimis activity on behalf of a  
707 party committee, political committee, slate committee or candidate  
708 committee, including for activities including, but not limited to, (A) the  
709 creation of electronic or written communications or digital photos or  
710 video as part of an electronic file created on a voluntary basis without  
711 compensation, including, but not limited to, the creation and ongoing  
712 content development and delivery of social media on the Internet or  
713 telephone, including, but not limited to, the sending or receiving of  
714 electronic mail or messages, (B) the posting or display of a candidate's  
715 name or group of candidates' names at a town fair, county fair, local  
716 festival or similar mass gathering by a party committee, (C) the use of  
717 personal property or a service that is customarily attendant to the  
718 occupancy of a residential dwelling, or the donation of an item or items  
719 of personal property that are customarily used for campaign purposes,  
720 by an individual, to a candidate committee, provided the cumulative  
721 fair market value of such use of personal property or service or items of  
722 personal property does not exceed one hundred dollars in the aggregate  
723 for any single election or calendar year, as the case may be;

724 (19) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment  
725 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
726 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are  
727 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
728 legislative leadership committee;

729 (20) A communication, as described in subdivision (7) of subsection  
730 (b) of section 9-601b, as amended by this act;

731 (21) An independent expenditure, as defined in section 9-601c;

732 (22) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a  
733 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,  
734 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
735 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,  
736 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
737 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney  
738 General, state senator or state representative, provided the candidate  
739 (A) making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the  
740 communication, and (B) being endorsed paid for such communication;

741 (23) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district  
742 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to  
743 this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to the office of state  
744 senator or state representative, containing an endorsement on behalf of  
745 such candidate for such nomination or election from a candidate for the  
746 office of state senator or state representative, provided the candidate (A)  
747 making the endorsement is not seeking election to the office of state  
748 senator or state representative for a district that contains any  
749 geographical area shared by the district for the office to which the  
750 endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election, and (B) being  
751 endorsed paid for such communication; or

752 (24) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a  
753 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the  
754 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six  
755 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year.

756 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 9-601b of the general statutes is  
757 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
758 *passage*):

759 (b) The term "expenditure" does not mean:

760 (1) A loan of money, made in the ordinary course of business, by a  
761 state or national bank;

762 (2) A communication made by any corporation, organization or



763 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
764 administrative personnel, or their families;

765 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by  
766 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,  
767 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
768 families;

769 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering  
770 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate  
771 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for  
772 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the  
773 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made  
774 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to  
775 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is  
776 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such  
777 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation  
778 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be  
779 performed in the future;

780 (5) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the  
781 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other  
782 periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political  
783 party, committee or candidate;

784 (6) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of  
785 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by  
786 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or  
787 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a  
788 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
789 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room  
790 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative  
791 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
792 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed [four] five  
793 hundred dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed  
794 [eight hundred] one thousand dollars for any such event hosted by two

795 or more individuals, provided at least one such individual owns or  
796 resides at the residential premises, and further provided the cumulative  
797 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
798 behalf of any such candidate or committee does not exceed [eight  
799 hundred] one thousand dollars with respect to a calendar year or single  
800 election, as the case may be;

801 (7) A communication described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
802 this section that includes speech or expression made (A) prior to the  
803 ninety-day period preceding the date of a primary or an election at  
804 which the clearly identified candidate or candidates are seeking  
805 nomination to public office or position, that is made for the purpose of  
806 influencing any legislative or administrative action, as defined in section  
807 1-91, or executive action, or (B) during a legislative session for the  
808 purpose of influencing legislative action;

809 (8) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative  
810 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

811 (9) A commercial advertisement that refers to an owner, director or  
812 officer of a business entity who is also a candidate and that had  
813 previously been broadcast or appeared when the owner, director or  
814 officer was not a candidate;

815 (10) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a  
816 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,  
817 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
818 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,  
819 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
820 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney  
821 General, state senator or state representative, shall not be an  
822 expenditure attributable to the endorsing candidate, if the candidate  
823 making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the  
824 communication;

825 (11) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district  
826 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to

827 the provisions of this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to  
828 the office of state senator or state representative, containing an  
829 endorsement on behalf of such candidate for such nomination or  
830 election, from a candidate for the office of state senator or state  
831 representative, shall not be an expenditure attributable to the endorsing  
832 candidate, if the candidate making the endorsement is not seeking  
833 election to the office of state senator or state representative for a district  
834 that contains any geographical area shared by the district for the office  
835 to which the endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election;

836 (12) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a  
837 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the  
838 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six  
839 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year;

840 (13) A lawful communication by any charitable organization which is  
841 a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
842 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal  
843 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended;

844 (14) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment  
845 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
846 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are  
847 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
848 legislative leadership committee; or

849 (15) An expense or expenses incurred by a human being acting alone  
850 in an amount that is two hundred dollars or less, in the aggregate, that  
851 benefits a candidate for a single election.

|                                                                               |              |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |              |                    |
| Section 1                                                                     | July 1, 2025 | 9-601(25) and (26) |
| Sec. 2                                                                        | July 1, 2025 | 9-621(a) to (c)    |
| Sec. 3                                                                        | July 1, 2025 | 9-621(h)           |
| Sec. 4                                                                        | July 1, 2025 | 9-7b(a)(5)(B)      |
| Sec. 5                                                                        | July 1, 2025 | 9-7b(a)(14)        |

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|         |                     |                 |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Sec. 6  | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 9-7b(c)         |
| Sec. 7  | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 9-704(c) to (e) |
| Sec. 8  | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 9-706(b) to (d) |
| Sec. 9  | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 9-7a(b) to (d)  |
| Sec. 10 | <i>from passage</i> | 9-601a(b)       |
| Sec. 11 | <i>from passage</i> | 9-601b(b)       |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(26)(D)(v), "fundraiser" was changed to "[fundraiser] fundraising event" for consistency.

**GOS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*