

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

## Substitute Bill No. 1407

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

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

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 Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the 2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu 3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (5) (A) To inspect or audit at any reasonable time and upon 5 reasonable notice the accounts or records of any treasurer or principal treasurer, except as provided for in subparagraph (B) of this 6 7 subdivision, as required by chapter 155 or 157 and to audit any such 8 election, primary or referendum held within the state; provided, (i) (I) 9 not later than two months preceding the day of an election at which a 10 candidate is seeking election, the commission shall complete any audit 11 it has initiated in the absence of a complaint that involves a committee 12 of the same candidate from a previous election, and (II) during the two-13 month period preceding the day of an election at which a candidate is 14 seeking election, the commission shall not initiate an audit in the 15 absence of a complaint that involves a committee of the same candidate 16 from a previous election, and (ii) the commission shall not audit any 17 caucus, as defined in subdivision (1) of section 9-372.

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

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

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

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

Section 1	July 1, 2025	9-7b(a)(5)

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

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

GOS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO