
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 515

AN ACT CONCERNING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that, on or after July 1, 2025, the adjusted individual qualifying contribution (QC) maximum amounts for the Citizens' Election Program (CEP) continue to apply until the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) makes its next inflationary adjustment. In practice, candidates may obtain QCs before an adjustment occurs, but they are limited to collecting the statutory maximum of \$250 until the adjustment goes into effect.

By law, candidates qualify for the CEP by raising a certain number of QCs. QCs must come from individual donors, and state law requires SEEC to adjust the maximum individual QC amounts for inflation. The law sets individual QC amounts, before inflation adjustment, at \$5 to \$250, and the inflation-adjusted maximum for the 2024 election was \$320.

Under existing law, SEEC must (1) publish the adjusted amounts by January 15 in the year of the applicable election and (2) base them on inflationary changes from January 1, 2017, through December 31 in the year before the adjustment must be made (e.g., through December 31, 2023, for the 2024 election).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sSB 1405, § 7, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes various changes regarding CEP QCs, including when and how they are adjusted for inflation and that the adjusted

individual QC amounts continue to apply until SEEC makes its next inflationary adjustments.

SB 1533, § 2, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs.

sHB 7089, § 8, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs.

sHB 7222, § 8, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, makes changes to the inflationary adjustment procedures for QCs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)