

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-461 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL SPENDING AND STATE-GRANTED

Title: CORPORATE POWERS.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There has been concern since the Supreme Court Case of Citizen's United that corporations have had an outsized influence in politics. SB 461 prohibits corporations from making political expenditures unless the expenditure is made from a political committee established by the corporation. This bill aims to redefine corporate power in campaigns by defining the necessary use of a political committee providing transparency and structure. Additionally, it establishes clear penalties for violations of corporate spending laws such as the dissolution of the corporation or the prohibition from doing business in Connecticut.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Amends when SOTS must file a certificate of dissolution or revocation.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[State Elections Enforcement Commission, Executive Director and General Counsel, Ryan M. Burns](#) neither expresses support or opposition for SB 461 but rather offers clarity on how this bill might affect/complicate Connecticut law. He notes that General Statutes 9-613 under the ruling of *Citizens' United and SpeechNow* allow for corporations and other business entities to make expenditures, contributions, and independent expenditures, including unlimited contributions to political committees. Additionally, he raises concern about the lack of process clarified for adverse findings by the Secretary of State's Office and for enforcing prohibitions under the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Michelle Embree Ku](#) expresses support for SB 461 as a current candidate running for office, emphasizing the importance of equal opportunity and fair representation. She argues that unlimited campaign contributions from corporations limits fair access for candidates to appear on ballots. She affirms that the Citizens' Election Program has made necessary progress towards inclusivity and states that SB 461 would further advance its efforts. She also notes that 16 other states have introduced legislation like SB 461 promoting transparency.

[Felicia DeDominicis](#) expresses support for SB461 because she believes it will help limit corporate influence in elections. She believes that corporate money is a threat to democratic institutions and expresses firm belief in a government by and for the people.

[Anonymous submitter](#) expresses support for SB 461 because they believe corporations have too much leverage in political speech and advertising. They believe that the current political climate undermines the democracy that was intended by the founding fathers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Two anonymous submitters](#) express opposition to SB 461, citing concerns about excessive regulatory complexity and the large number of items included.

Reported by: Evangeline Chakalis

Date: 04.01.26