

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-465 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPLORATORY COMMITTEES.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/13/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There is concern that recently, candidates are abusing the exploratory committee system by “shopping” around for which office they would like to run for while in the exploratory phase. SB-465 enacts a series of changes to campaign law relating to exploratory committees, which are fundraising committees candidates use when deciding whether to officially declare a campaign for office:

1. The limit for remaining in an exploratory phase changes from no strict time limit to thirty (30) days.
2. The maximum contribution per individual donor changes to \$250.
3. The aggregate fundraising limit for the committee changes to \$5,000.
4. The trigger requiring someone to register as an official candidate is tightened, such that, if an exploratory candidate makes a statement about exploring a run for a particular office, the exploratory committee must now convert into a candidate committee.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Anonymous, Anonymous](#)

Anonymous opposes SB-465 because it is not relevant and the legislature should focus on affordability and accountability.

[Anonymous, Anonymous](#)

Anonymous opposes SB-465 because there are too many bills and it should be reduced to seven (7).

Reported by: Rebecca Hyland, Assistant Clerk

Date: March 31, 2026