



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5547

LCO No. 3129



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS DURING
LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 9-610 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
3 *1, 2027*):

4 (e) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (f) of this section,
5 the exclusions to the term "contribution" in subsection (b) of section 9-
6 601a shall not apply; [the term] "state office" means the office of
7 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
8 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State; [and the term] "state officer"
9 means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State
10 Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State; "municipal office"
11 means an elective office for which only the electors of a single town, city,
12 borough or political subdivision, as defined in section 9-372, may vote,
13 but does not include the office of state senator or state representative;
14 "municipal officer" means an elected officer for which only the electors

15 of a single town, city, borough or political subdivision were permitted
16 to vote, but does not include a state senator or state representative; and
17 "political subdivision" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-
18 372. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, [to the contrary,]
19 during any regular session of the General Assembly, during any special
20 session of the General Assembly held between the adjournment of the
21 regular session in an odd-numbered year and the convening of the
22 regular session in the following even-numbered year or during any
23 reconvened session of the General Assembly held in an odd-numbered
24 year to reconsider vetoed bills, (1) no lobbyist or political committee
25 established by or on behalf of a lobbyist shall make or offer to make a
26 contribution to or on behalf of, and no lobbyist shall solicit a
27 contribution on behalf of, (A) a candidate or exploratory committee
28 established by a candidate for nomination or election to the General
29 Assembly, [or] a state office, a municipal office or the office of judge of
30 probate, or (B) a political committee (i) established for an assembly or
31 senatorial district, (ii) established by a member of the General Assembly,
32 [or] a state officer, a municipal officer, a judge of probate or such
33 [member or officer's] member's, officer's or judge's agent, or in
34 consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, any such member,
35 officer, judge or agent, or (iii) controlled by such member, officer, judge
36 or agent, to aid or promote the nomination or election of any candidate
37 or candidates to the General Assembly, [or] a state office, a municipal
38 office or the office of judge of probate, and (2) no such candidate or
39 political committee shall accept such a contribution. The provisions of
40 this subsection shall not apply to a candidate committee established by
41 a member of the General Assembly or a candidate for nomination or
42 election to the General Assembly, at a special election for the General
43 Assembly, from the date on which the candidate or the [chairman]
44 chairperson of the committee files the designation of a treasurer and a
45 depository institution under section 9-602 with the State Elections
46 Enforcement Commission, to the date on which the special election is
47 held, inclusive, [, or to an exploratory committee established by a
48 member of the General Assembly to promote his candidacy for an office

49 other than the General Assembly.]

50 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is repealed
51 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

52 (f) If an exploratory committee has been established by a candidate
53 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-604, the treasurer of the
54 committee shall file a notice of intent to dissolve it with the appropriate
55 authority not later than fifteen days after the candidate's declaration of
56 intent to seek nomination or election to a particular public office, except
57 that in the case of an exploratory committee established by a candidate
58 for purposes that include aiding or promoting the candidate's candidacy
59 for nomination or election to the General Assembly or a state office, the
60 treasurer of the committee shall file such notice of intent to dissolve the
61 committee not later than fifteen days after the earlier of: (1) The
62 candidate's declaration of intent to seek nomination or election to a
63 particular public office, (2) the candidate's endorsement at a convention,
64 caucus or town committee meeting, or (3) the candidate's filing of a
65 candidacy for nomination under section 9-400 or 9-405. The treasurer
66 shall also file a statement identifying all contributions received or
67 expenditures made by the exploratory committee since the previous
68 statement and the balance on hand or deficit, as the case may be. In the
69 event of a surplus, the treasurer shall, not later than the filing of the
70 statement, distribute the surplus to the candidate committee established
71 pursuant to said section, except that [(A)] in the case of a surplus of an
72 exploratory committee established by a candidate who intends to be a
73 participating candidate, as defined in section 9-703, in the Citizens'
74 Election Program, the treasurer may distribute to the candidate
75 committee only that portion of such surplus that is attributable to
76 contributions that meet the criteria for qualifying contributions for the
77 candidate committee under section 9-704 and shall distribute the
78 remainder of such surplus to the Citizens' Election Fund established in
79 section 9-701. [, and (B) in the case of a surplus of an exploratory
80 committee established for nomination or election to an office other than
81 the General Assembly or a state office (i) the treasurer may only

82 distribute to the candidate committee for nomination or election to the
83 General Assembly or state office of such candidate that portion of such
84 surplus which is in excess of the total contributions which the
85 exploratory committee received from lobbyists or political committees
86 established by lobbyists, during any period in which the prohibitions in
87 subsection (e) of section 9-610 apply, and (ii) any remaining amount
88 shall be returned to all such lobbyists and political committees
89 established by or on behalf of lobbyists, on a prorated basis of
90 contribution, or distributed to any charitable organization which is a
91 tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
92 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
93 of the United States, as from time to time amended.] If the candidate
94 decides not to seek nomination or election to any office, the treasurer
95 shall, within fifteen days after such decision, comply with the provisions
96 of this subsection and distribute any surplus in the manner provided by
97 this section for political committees other than those formed for ongoing
98 political activities, except that if the surplus is from an exploratory
99 committee established by the State Treasurer, any portion of the surplus
100 that is received from a principal of an investment services firm or a
101 political committee established by such firm shall be returned to such
102 principal or committee on a prorated basis of contribution. In the event
103 of a deficit, the treasurer shall file a statement thirty days after the
104 decision or declaration with the proper authority and, thereafter, on the
105 seventh day of each month following if on the last day of the previous
106 month there was an increase or decrease in such deficit in excess of five
107 hundred dollars from that reported on the last statement filed. The
108 treasurer shall file supplemental statements until the deficit is
109 eliminated. If the exploratory committee does not have a surplus or
110 deficit, the statement filed after the candidate's declaration or decision
111 shall be the last required statement. If a candidate certifies on the
112 statement of organization for the exploratory committee pursuant to
113 subsection (c) of section 9-604 that the candidate will not be a candidate
114 for the office of state representative and subsequently establishes a
115 candidate committee for the office of state representative, the treasurer

116 of the candidate committee shall pay to the State Treasurer, for deposit
117 in the General Fund, an amount equal to the portion of any contribution
118 received by said exploratory committee that exceeded two hundred fifty
119 dollars. As used in this subsection, "principal of an investment services
120 firm" has the meaning set forth in subsection (e) of section 9-612 and
121 "state office" has the same meaning set forth in subsection (e) of section
122 9-610, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-610(e)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-608(f)

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit lobbyist contributions during a legislative session to candidates for municipal office and judge of probate, expanding on the current prohibitions as to candidates for state legislator and state-wide office.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]