



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5452

LCO No. 2712



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2024*):

4 (a) No financial obligation shall be incurred by a committee unless
5 authorized by the treasurer in writing, except that certain expenditures
6 of a candidate's personal funds may be reimbursed as provided in
7 subsection (k) of this section.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (j) of section 9-607 of the general statutes is repealed
9 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

10 (j) A candidate or his committee worker shall be reimbursed by the
11 treasurer for any permissible expenditure which the candidate or
12 committee worker has paid from his own personal funds if (1) the
13 treasurer authorized the expenditure in accordance with subsection (a)

14 of this section, (2) the candidate or worker provides the treasurer with a
15 written receipt or other documentary evidence from the vendor proving
16 his payment of the expenditure, and (3) in the case of a reimbursement
17 to the candidate, a detailed accounting of the expenditure is included in
18 the report of the treasurer. Internal records required to be maintained in
19 order for any candidate or committee worker to be reimbursed from
20 committee funds include, but are not limited to, contemporaneous
21 invoices, receipts, bills, statements, itineraries, or other written or
22 documentary evidence showing the campaign or lawful purpose of the
23 expenditure. The treasurer shall preserve all such internal records for
24 the same period of time as required in the case of cancelled checks,
25 except that the treasurer of a candidate committee may, upon request of
26 the candidate, give such internal records to the candidate to keep for
27 such period.

28 Sec. 3. Section 9-622 of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

30 The following persons shall be guilty of illegal practices and shall be
31 punished in accordance with the provisions of section 9-623:

32 (1) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or by another
33 person, gives or offers or promises to any person any money, gift,
34 advantage, preferment, entertainment, aid, emolument or other
35 valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any person to
36 sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote or refrain
37 from voting for or against any person or for or against any measure at
38 any election, caucus, convention, primary or referendum;

39 (2) Any person who, directly or indirectly, receives, accepts, requests
40 or solicits from any person, committee, association, organization or
41 corporation, any money, gift, advantage, preferment, aid, emolument or
42 other valuable thing for the purpose of inducing or procuring any
43 person to sign a nominating, primary or referendum petition or to vote
44 or refrain from voting for or against any person or for or against any
45 measure at any such election, caucus, primary or referendum;

46 (3) Any person who, in consideration of any money, gift, advantage,
47 preferment, aid, emolument or other valuable thing paid, received,
48 accepted or promised to the person's advantage or any other person's
49 advantage, votes or refrains from voting for or against any person or for
50 or against any measure at any such election, caucus, primary or
51 referendum;

52 (4) Any person who solicits from any candidate any money, gift,
53 contribution, emolument or other valuable thing for the purpose of
54 using the same for the support, assistance, benefit or expenses of any
55 club, company or organization, or for the purpose of defraying the cost
56 or expenses of any political campaign, primary, referendum or election;

57 (5) Any person who, directly or indirectly, pays, gives, contributes or
58 promises any money or other valuable thing to defray or towards
59 defraying the cost or expenses of any campaign, primary, referendum
60 or election to any person, committee, company, club, organization or
61 association, other than to a treasurer, except that this subdivision shall
62 not apply to any expenses for postage, telegrams, telephoning,
63 stationery, express charges, traveling, meals, lodging or photocopying
64 incurred by any candidate for office or for nomination to office, so far as
65 may be permitted under the provisions of this chapter;

66 (6) Any person who, in order to secure or promote the person's own
67 nomination or election as a candidate, or that of any other person,
68 directly or indirectly, promises to appoint, or promises to secure or
69 assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of any other
70 person to any public position, or to any position of honor, trust or
71 emolument; but any person may publicly announce the person's own
72 choice or purpose in relation to any appointment, nomination or
73 election in which the person may be called to take part, if the person is
74 nominated for or elected to such office;

75 (7) Any person who, directly or indirectly, individually or through
76 another person, makes a payment or promise of payment to a treasurer
77 in a name other than the person's own, and any treasurer who

78 knowingly receives a payment or promise of payment, or enters or
79 causes the same to be entered in the person's accounts in any other name
80 than that of the person by whom such payment or promise of payment
81 is made;

82 (8) Any person who knowingly and wilfully violates any provision
83 of this chapter;

84 (9) Any person who offers or receives a cash contribution in excess of
85 one hundred dollars to promote the success or defeat of any political
86 party, candidate or referendum question;

87 (10) Any person who solicits, makes or receives a contribution that is
88 otherwise prohibited by any provision of this chapter;

89 (11) Any department head or deputy department head of a state
90 department who solicits a contribution on behalf of, or for the benefit of,
91 any candidate for state, district or municipal office or any political party;

92 (12) Any municipal employee who solicits a contribution on behalf
93 of, or for the benefit of, any candidate for state, district or municipal
94 office, any political committee or any political party, from (A) an
95 individual under the supervision of such employee, or (B) the spouse or
96 a dependent child of such individual;

97 (13) Any person who makes an expenditure, that is not an
98 independent expenditure, for a candidate without the knowledge of
99 such candidate. No candidate shall be civilly or criminally liable with
100 regard to any such expenditure;

101 (14) Any person who incurs a financial obligation for a committee
102 without authorization from the treasurer in writing. No treasurer shall
103 be civilly or criminally liable with regard to any such obligation;

104 [(14)] (15) Any chief of staff of a legislative caucus who solicits a
105 contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for state,
106 district or municipal office from an employee of the legislative caucus;

107 [(15)] (16) Any chief of staff for a state-wide elected official who
108 solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate for
109 state, district or municipal office from a member of such official's staff;
110 or

111 [(16)] (17) Any chief of staff for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor
112 who solicits a contribution on behalf of or for the benefit of any
113 candidate for state, district or municipal office from a member of the
114 staff of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or from any commissioner
115 or deputy commissioner of any state agency.

116 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-621 of the general statutes is
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
118 *2024*):

119 (d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section do not
120 apply to (1) any editorial, news story, or commentary published in any
121 newspaper, magazine or journal on its own behalf and upon its own
122 responsibility and for which it does not charge or receive any
123 compensation whatsoever, (2) any banner, (3) political paraphernalia
124 including pins, buttons, badges, emblems, hats, bumper stickers or
125 other similar materials, [or] (4) signs with a surface area of not more than
126 thirty-two square feet, or (5) any text or media message, as defined in
127 section 42-284, which (A) does not solicit funds, (B) clearly identifies one
128 or more candidates or political parties, and (C) states the name of each
129 committee that made or incurred an expenditure for such text or media
130 message.

131 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 9-618 of the 2024 supplement to the
132 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
133 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

134 (d) (1) (A) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
135 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
136 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
137 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
138 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to

139 the office of: [(A)] (i) State senator, in excess of ten thousand dollars; or
140 [(B)] (ii) state representative, in excess of five thousand dollars. The
141 limits imposed by this subdivision shall apply separately to primaries
142 and elections. No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
143 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
144 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
145 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
146 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
147 any office not included in this subdivision.

148 (B) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision:
149 [a]

150 (i) A legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee
151 may pay or reimburse another legislative caucus committee or
152 legislative leadership committee for its pro rata share of certain
153 expenses in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
154 9-610; and

155 (ii) A legislative caucus committee and a legislative leadership
156 committee, or a legislative leadership committee and another legislative
157 leadership committee, for the same political party in the same house of
158 the General Assembly may transfer funds between themselves,
159 provided the treasurers of both such committees authorize such transfer
160 in writing.

161 (2) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
162 committee shall make a contribution or contributions in any calendar
163 year to, or for the benefit of, the state central committee of a political
164 party, in excess of ten thousand dollars.

165 (3) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
166 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the
167 benefit of, any committee except as provided in this subsection.

168 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-619 of the 2024 supplement to the
169 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

170 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

171 (d) (1) (A) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
172 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
173 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
174 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
175 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
176 the office of: [(A)] (i) State senator, in excess of ten thousand dollars; or
177 [(B)] (ii) state representative, in excess of five thousand dollars. The
178 limits imposed by this subdivision shall apply separately to primaries
179 and elections. No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
180 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, for the benefit
181 of, or pursuant to the authorization or request of, a candidate or a
182 committee supporting or opposing any candidate's campaign for
183 nomination at a primary, or any candidate's campaign for election, to
184 any office not included in this subdivision.

185 (B) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision:
186 [a]

187 (i) A legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee
188 may pay or reimburse another legislative caucus committee or
189 legislative leadership committee for its pro rata share of certain
190 expenses in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
191 9-610; and

192 (ii) A legislative caucus committee and a legislative leadership
193 committee, or a legislative leadership committee and another legislative
194 leadership committee, for the same political party in the same house of
195 the General Assembly may transfer funds between themselves,
196 provided the treasurers of both such committees authorize such transfer
197 in writing.

198 (2) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
199 committee shall make a contribution or contributions in any calendar
200 year to, or for the benefit of, the state central committee of a political
201 party, in excess of ten thousand dollars.

202 (3) No legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
203 committee shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the
204 benefit of, any committee except as provided in this subsection.

205 Sec. 7. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-704 of the 2024 supplement
206 to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in
207 lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

208 (b) (1) For elections for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor
209 held in [~~2022~~] 2026, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts
210 in subdivision (1) or (2), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this section
211 shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not
212 later than [~~January 15, 2022~~] January 1, 2026, and quadrennially
213 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
214 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department
215 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
216 [~~January 1, 2017~~] December 1, 2016, and ending on [~~December~~]
217 November thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said
218 adjustment is to be made.

219 (2) For elections for the office of Attorney General, State Comptroller,
220 State Treasurer or Secretary of the State held in [~~2018~~] 2026, and
221 thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (2) of
222 subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
223 Enforcement Commission not later than [~~January 15, 2018~~] January 1,
224 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in
225 the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
226 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
227 the period beginning on [~~January 1, 2017~~] December 1, 2016, and ending
228 on [~~December~~] November thirty-first in the year preceding the year in
229 which said adjustment is to be made.

230 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
231 for elections for the office of state senator or state representative held in
232 [~~2018~~] 2026, and thereafter, the aggregate contribution amounts in
233 subdivision (3) or (4), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall

234 be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later
235 than [January 15, 2018] January 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, in
236 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
237 consumers as published by the United States Department of Labor,
238 Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1,
239 2017] December 1, 2016, and ending on [December] November thirty-
240 first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be
241 made.

242 (B) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
243 held in 2024, the aggregate contribution amounts in subdivision (3) or
244 (4), as applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by
245 the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January 15,
246 2024, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all
247 urban consumers as published by the United States Department of
248 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on
249 January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2021.

250 (c) (1) For elections for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
251 Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the
252 State held in [2022] 2026, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
253 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (1) or (2), as
254 applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
255 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15, 2022]
256 January 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any
257 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
258 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
259 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 1,
260 2016, and ending on [December] November thirty-first in the year
261 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

262 (2) For elections for the office of state senator or state representative
263 held in [2020] 2026, and thereafter, the two-hundred-fifty-dollar
264 maximum individual contribution amount in subdivision (3) or (4), as
265 applicable, of subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
266 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15, 2020]

267 January 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with any
268 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
269 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
270 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2017] December 1,
271 2016, and ending on [December] November thirty-first in the year
272 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

273 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 9-705 of the 2024 supplement to the
274 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
275 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

276 (d) (1) For elections held in 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the
277 grants in subsection (a) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
278 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15] January
279 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in
280 the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
281 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
282 the period beginning on [January 1, 2022] December 1, 2021, and ending
283 on [December] November thirty-first in the year preceding the year in
284 which said adjustment is to be made.

285 (2) For elections held in [2014] 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the
286 grants in subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted by the
287 State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15,
288 2014] January 1, 2026, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with
289 any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
290 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
291 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2010] December 1,
292 2009, and ending on [December] November thirty-first in the year
293 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

294 Sec. 9. Subsection (h) of section 9-705 of the 2024 supplement to the
295 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
296 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2025*):

297 (h) [(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for]
298 For elections held in [2010] 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the grants

299 in subsections (e), (f) and (g) of this section shall be adjusted by the State
 300 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than [January 15, 2010]
 301 January 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with any
 302 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as
 303 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
 304 Statistics, during the period beginning on [January 1, 2008] December 1,
 305 2007, and ending on [December] November thirty-first in the year
 306 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

307 [(2) For elections held in 2018, the amount of the grants in subsections
 308 (e), (f) and (g) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections
 309 Enforcement Commission immediately in accordance with any change
 310 in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the
 311 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during
 312 the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on December 31,
 313 2015.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-607(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-607(j)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-622
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-621(d)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-618(d)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-619(d)
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-704(b) and (c)
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-705(d)
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	9-705(h)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require express written authorization from committee treasurers for campaign expenditures, (2) provide alternate disclaimer requirements for text or media message political advertising, (3) allow legislative caucus and leadership committees to transfer money between themselves with approval of their respective treasurers, and (4) require the State Elections Enforcement Commission to adjust Citizens' Election Program contribution limit and qualifying threshold amounts by January first of the relevant years.

[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.]