



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 552

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5547

House of Representatives, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*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 may vote, but does not include the
13 office of state senator or state representative; "municipal officer" means

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

49 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	January 1, 2027	9-610(e)
Sec. 2	January 1, 2027	9-608(f)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(e), "political subdivision, as defined in section 9-372," was changed to "political subdivision" to delete redundant language.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the current ban on contributions and solicitations by lobbyists and lobbyist political action committees (PACs) to include municipal and probate elections, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5547

AN ACT CONCERNING LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill extends the sessional ban on contributions and solicitations by lobbyists and lobbyist political committees (known as PACs) to additional entities. It also eliminates an exemption from these bans for exploratory committees established by state legislators to promote their candidacy for non-legislative offices.

Specifically, it expands the ban to cover (1) candidate or exploratory committees established by candidates for municipal office or probate judges; (2) PACs established, requested, or created in consultation with candidates for municipal offices or probate judges, or their agents; or (3) PACs controlled by candidates for state, legislative, or municipal office, or probate judges, or their agents, to assist in the nomination or election of any candidate for state, legislative, or municipal office or probate judge.

Current law and the bill prohibit (1) lobbyists and PACs established by or for a lobbyist from making or offering to make contributions to or on behalf of these committees, (2) lobbyists from soliciting contributions for them, and (3) the committees from accepting the contributions.

Under current law, the ban generally applies to contributions or solicitations for (1) candidate or exploratory committees for a legislative or statewide office and (2) PACs established by or for legislators or state officers or controlled by them or their agents.

Under the bill, a “municipal office” and “municipal officer” are elected offices or officers for which only the electors of a single town,

city, borough, or political subdivision may vote (other than state senator or representative). As under current law, the ban applies during regular legislative sessions, any special session held between the end of a long session and the start of a short session, and any veto session held in an odd-numbered year.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)