



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 507**

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 490

*Senate, April 8, 2026*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE POLITICAL DONATION PLATFORMS AND LIMITING AUTOMATICALLY RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the 2026 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) As used in this chapter and chapter 157, "contribution" does not  
5 mean:

6 (1) A loan of money made in the ordinary course of business by a  
7 national or state bank;

8 (2) Any communication made by a corporation, organization or  
9 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
10 administrative personnel, or their families;

11 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by

12 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,  
13 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
14 families;

15 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering  
16 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate  
17 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for  
18 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the  
19 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made  
20 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to  
21 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is  
22 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such  
23 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation  
24 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be  
25 performed in the future;

26 (5) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of  
27 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by  
28 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or  
29 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a  
30 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
31 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room  
32 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative  
33 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
34 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed five hundred  
35 dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed one thousand  
36 dollars for any such event hosted by two or more individuals, provided  
37 at least one such individual owns or resides at the residential premises,  
38 and further provided the cumulative value of the invitations, food or  
39 beverages provided by an individual on behalf of any such candidate or  
40 committee does not exceed one thousand dollars with respect to a  
41 calendar year or single election, as the case may be;

42 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use by a party, political, slate or  
43 candidate committee, including those for a participating or  
44 nonparticipating candidate, at a discount, if the charge is not less than

45 the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative value of the  
46 discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate committee does  
47 not exceed four hundred dollars with respect to any single primary or  
48 election, or to or on behalf of any party, political or slate committee, does  
49 not exceed six hundred dollars in a calendar year;

50 (7) The display of a lawn sign by a human being or on real property;

51 (8) The payment, by a party committee or slate committee of the costs  
52 of preparation, display, mailing or other distribution incurred by the  
53 committee or individual with respect to any printed slate card, sample  
54 ballot or other printed list containing the names of three or more  
55 candidates;

56 (9) The donation of any item of personal property by an individual to  
57 a committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, or  
58 the purchase by an individual of any such item at such an affair, to the  
59 extent that the cumulative value donated or purchased does not exceed  
60 one hundred dollars;

61 (10) (A) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
62 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair sponsored by the  
63 candidate committee of a candidate for an office of a municipality,  
64 provided the cumulative purchase of such space does not exceed two  
65 hundred fifty dollars from any single such candidate or the candidate's  
66 committee with respect to any single election campaign if the purchaser  
67 is a business entity or fifty dollars for purchases by any other person;

68 (B) The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the  
69 purchaser, in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a fund-  
70 raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political committee,  
71 other than an exploratory committee, provided the cumulative purchase  
72 of such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars from any single  
73 party committee or a political committee, other than an exploratory  
74 committee, in any calendar year if the purchaser is a business entity or  
75 fifty dollars for purchases by any other person. Notwithstanding the  
76 provisions of this subparagraph, the following may not purchase

77 advertising space in a program for a fund-raising affair or on signs at a  
78 fund-raising affair sponsored by a party committee or a political  
79 committee, other than an exploratory committee: (i) A communicator  
80 lobbyist, (ii) a member of the immediate family of a communicator  
81 lobbyist, (iii) a state contractor, (iv) a prospective state contractor, or (v)  
82 a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor. As used  
83 in this subparagraph, "state contractor", "prospective state contractor"  
84 and "principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" have  
85 the same meanings as provided in subsection (f) of section 9-612;

86 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to the candidate's  
87 candidate committee, provided the committee is for a nonparticipating  
88 candidate;

89 (12) The donation of goods or services by a business entity to a  
90 committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, to  
91 the extent that the cumulative value donated does not exceed two  
92 hundred dollars;

93 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a telephone  
94 company, as defined in section 16-1, for telecommunications service for  
95 a committee or to another utility company, such as an electric  
96 distribution company, provided the security deposit is refunded to the  
97 individual;

98 (14) The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial  
99 support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television  
100 company, as defined in section 16-1, for community access  
101 programming pursuant to section 16-331a, unless (A) the major purpose  
102 of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to influence  
103 the nomination or election of a candidate, or (B) such facilities,  
104 equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a political party;

105 (15) The sale of food or beverage by a town committee to an  
106 individual at a town fair, county fair, local festival or similar mass  
107 gathering held within the state, to the extent that the cumulative  
108 payment made by any one individual for such items does not exceed

109 fifty dollars;

110 (16) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative  
111 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

112 (17) The donation of food or beverage by an individual for  
113 consumption at a slate, candidate, political committee or party  
114 committee meeting, event or activity that is not a fund-raising affair to  
115 the extent that the cumulative value of the food or beverages donated  
116 by an individual for a single meeting or event does not exceed fifty  
117 dollars;

118 (18) The value associated with the de minimis activity on behalf of a  
119 party committee, political committee, slate committee or candidate  
120 committee, including for activities including, but not limited to, (A) the  
121 creation of electronic or written communications or digital photos or  
122 video as part of an electronic file created on a voluntary basis without  
123 compensation, including, but not limited to, the creation and ongoing  
124 content development and delivery of social media on the Internet or  
125 telephone, including, but not limited to, the sending or receiving of  
126 electronic mail or messages, (B) the posting or display of a candidate's  
127 name or group of candidates' names at a town fair, county fair, local  
128 festival or similar mass gathering by a party committee, (C) the use of  
129 personal property or a service that is customarily attendant to the  
130 occupancy of a residential dwelling, or the donation of an item or items  
131 of personal property that are customarily used for campaign purposes,  
132 by an individual, to a candidate committee, provided the cumulative  
133 fair market value of such use of personal property or service or items of  
134 personal property does not exceed one hundred dollars in the aggregate  
135 for any single election or calendar year, as the case may be;

136 (19) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment  
137 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
138 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are  
139 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
140 legislative leadership committee;

141 (20) A communication, as described in subdivision (7) of subsection  
142 (b) of section 9-601b, as amended by this act;

143 (21) An independent expenditure, as defined in section 9-601c;

144 (22) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a  
145 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,  
146 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
147 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,  
148 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
149 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney  
150 General, state senator or state representative, provided the candidate  
151 (A) making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the  
152 communication, and (B) being endorsed paid for such communication;

153 (23) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district  
154 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to  
155 this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to the office of state  
156 senator or state representative, containing an endorsement on behalf of  
157 such candidate for such nomination or election from a candidate for the  
158 office of state senator or state representative, provided the candidate (A)  
159 making the endorsement is not seeking election to the office of state  
160 senator or state representative for a district that contains any  
161 geographical area shared by the district for the office to which the  
162 endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election, and (B) being  
163 endorsed paid for such communication; [or]

164 (24) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a  
165 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the  
166 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six  
167 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year; or

168 (25) With respect to an online platform that collects any contribution  
169 from a contributor and transmits such contribution to a committee, a  
170 voluntary payment made by such contributor to such online platform,  
171 which is (A) in addition to such contribution, and (B) used by such  
172 online platform to conduct its operations.

173 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-601b of the 2026 supplement to the  
174 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
175 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

176 (b) The term "expenditure" does not mean:

177 (1) A loan of money, made in the ordinary course of business, by a  
178 state or national bank;

179 (2) A communication made by any corporation, organization or  
180 association solely to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or  
181 administrative personnel, or their families;

182 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by  
183 any corporation, organization or association aimed at its members,  
184 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their  
185 families;

186 (4) Uncompensated services provided by individuals volunteering  
187 their time on behalf of a party committee, political committee, slate  
188 committee or candidate committee, including any services provided for  
189 the benefit of nonparticipating and participating candidates under the  
190 Citizens' Election Program and any unreimbursed travel expenses made  
191 by an individual who volunteers the individual's personal services to  
192 any such committee. For purposes of this subdivision, an individual is  
193 a volunteer if such individual is not receiving compensation for such  
194 services regardless of whether such individual received compensation  
195 in the past or may receive compensation for similar services that may be  
196 performed in the future;

197 (5) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the  
198 facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other  
199 periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political  
200 party, committee or candidate;

201 (6) The use of real or personal property, a portion or all of the cost of  
202 invitations and the cost of food or beverages, voluntarily provided by  
203 an individual to a candidate, including a nonparticipating or

204 participating candidate under the Citizens' Election Program, or to a  
205 party, political or slate committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
206 services at the individual's residential premises or a community room  
207 in the individual's residence facility, to the extent that the cumulative  
208 value of the invitations, food or beverages provided by an individual on  
209 behalf of any candidate or committee does not exceed five hundred  
210 dollars with respect to any single event or does not exceed one thousand  
211 dollars for any such event hosted by two or more individuals, provided  
212 at least one such individual owns or resides at the residential premises,  
213 and further provided the cumulative value of the invitations, food or  
214 beverages provided by an individual on behalf of any such candidate or  
215 committee does not exceed one thousand dollars with respect to a  
216 calendar year or single election, as the case may be;

217 (7) A communication described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
218 this section that includes speech or expression made (A) prior to the  
219 ninety-day period preceding the date of a primary or an election at  
220 which the clearly identified candidate or candidates are seeking  
221 nomination to public office or position, that is made for the purpose of  
222 influencing any legislative or administrative action, as defined in section  
223 1-91, or executive action, or (B) during a legislative session for the  
224 purpose of influencing legislative action;

225 (8) An organization expenditure by a party committee, legislative  
226 caucus committee or legislative leadership committee;

227 (9) A commercial advertisement that refers to an owner, director or  
228 officer of a business entity who is also a candidate and that had  
229 previously been broadcast or appeared when the owner, director or  
230 officer was not a candidate;

231 (10) A communication containing an endorsement on behalf of a  
232 candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor,  
233 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
234 Comptroller, Attorney General, state senator or state representative,  
235 from a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
236 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Attorney

237 General, state senator or state representative, shall not be an  
238 expenditure attributable to the endorsing candidate, if the candidate  
239 making the endorsement is unopposed at the time of the  
240 communication;

241 (11) A communication that is sent by mail to addresses in the district  
242 for which a candidate being endorsed by another candidate pursuant to  
243 the provisions of this subdivision is seeking nomination or election to  
244 the office of state senator or state representative, containing an  
245 endorsement on behalf of such candidate for such nomination or  
246 election, from a candidate for the office of state senator or state  
247 representative, shall not be an expenditure attributable to the endorsing  
248 candidate, if the candidate making the endorsement is not seeking  
249 election to the office of state senator or state representative for a district  
250 that contains any geographical area shared by the district for the office  
251 to which the endorsed candidate is seeking nomination or election;

252 (12) Campaign training events provided to multiple individuals by a  
253 legislative caucus committee and any associated materials, provided the  
254 cumulative value of such events and materials does not exceed six  
255 thousand dollars in the aggregate for a calendar year;

256 (13) A lawful communication by any charitable organization which is  
257 a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
258 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal  
259 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended;

260 (14) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment  
261 provided by a party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
262 legislative leadership committee that serve as headquarters for or are  
263 used by such party committee, legislative caucus committee or  
264 legislative leadership committee; [or]

265 (15) An expense or expenses incurred by a human being acting alone  
266 in an amount that is two hundred dollars or less, in the aggregate, that  
267 benefits a candidate for a single election; or

268        (16) With respect to an online platform that collects any contribution  
 269 from a contributor and transmits such contribution to a committee, the  
 270 use of such online platform to request a voluntary payment made by  
 271 such contributor to such online platform, which is (A) in addition to  
 272 such contribution, and (B) used by such online platform to conduct its  
 273 operations.

274        Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) An online platform that collects  
 275 a contribution, as defined in section 9-601a of the general statutes, as  
 276 amended by this act, from a contributor and transmits such contribution  
 277 to a committee, as defined in section 9-601 of the general statutes, shall  
 278 not allow for automatically recurring contributions to be made from a  
 279 contributor without the affirmative consent of such contributor. Passive  
 280 action or inaction on the part of a contributor, such as failure to uncheck  
 281 a prechecked box authorizing an automatically recurring contribution,  
 282 shall not satisfy the requirement of affirmative consent under this  
 283 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-601a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-601b(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GAE**        *Joint Favorable*

*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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill exempts voluntary payments from campaign contributors for the operation of online contribution platforms from being considered campaign contributions and requires affirmative consent for recurring donations on an online contribution platform, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 490****AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE POLITICAL DONATION PLATFORMS AND LIMITING AUTOMATICALLY RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.****SUMMARY**

Under existing practice, certain online platforms collect and transmit contributions from individuals to candidate, party, and political committees. This bill amends certain state campaign finance definitions to allow or exempt certain activities of these online platforms.

The bill also requires these platforms to get affirmative consent from an individual before enrolling him or her in automatically recurring contributions. It specifies that passive action or inaction, such as failing to uncheck a prechecked box, does not satisfy the bill's requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**ONLINE PLATFORM CONTRIBUTIONS**

The bill adds a new exemption to the state campaign finance law's definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure." Generally, the definitions include, with specified exceptions, anything of value that promotes either the success or defeat of a candidate, referendum, or political party.

The bill exempts from the definition of "contribution" voluntary payments to an online platform by the contributor that are (1) in addition to the contribution and (2) used by the platform to conduct its operations. The bill adds a parallel exemption to the definition of "expenditure" for using the platform to request these voluntary payments.

Generally, state law subjects contributions to, and expenditures by,

candidate committees, party committees, and political committees to campaign finance reporting requirements. It also places limits on contributions made to benefit these committees. Exempted items or services do not need to be reported as contributions or expenditures.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 5    (03/20/2026)