



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 5547**



**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  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, 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, 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, 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	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-610(e)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	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*