
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5543

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO AGGREGATE AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill changes how inflation affects the qualifying contribution (QC) amounts in the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). By law, candidates qualify for the CEP by raising a certain number of QCs, which must come from individual donors. Under state law, the base individual QC amounts may range from \$5 to \$250.

Current law requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission to adjust the maximum QC amount for inflation every two years on December 15 of odd-numbered years (currently, the \$250 maximum has been adjusted for inflation to \$340). Starting with the 2028 legislative elections, the bill instead requires these amounts to be adjusted on the same day in even-numbered years (for example, December 15, 2026, for the 2028 elections).

Additionally, to qualify for the CEP, a candidate must also raise an overall threshold amount of QCs from individual donors. The law also requires candidates for governor and other statewide offices to raise a specified amount from state residents. The aggregate threshold amounts specified in law vary depending on the office sought.

The bill eliminates the requirement that these threshold amounts be adjusted for inflation, including for state legislator special elections. It also replaces the current statutory base amounts with the amounts as they were for the 2022 election cycle, as described in the table below.

Table: Aggregate CEP Fundraising Thresholds

Office	<i>Current Law Aggregate Threshold, Adjusted for Inflation</i>	<i>The Bill's Aggregate Threshold</i>	<i>Current Law Resident Threshold, Adjusted for Inflation</i>	<i>The Bill's Resident Threshold</i>
Governor	\$335,500	\$288,800	\$302,000	\$259,900
Lt. governor	100,700	86,600	90,600	78,000
State senator	20,100	17,300	N/A	N/A
State representative	6,700	5,800	N/A	N/A

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes, including deleting obsolete language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 3 (03/20/2026)