

PA13-191

HB6290

Government Admin. & Elections	1472, 1481-1482, 1502- 1503, 1558, 1562-1563, 1573-1574	10
House	6096-6105	10
Senate	5134-5135, 5157-5159	5
		25

H – 1167

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 18
5882 – 6232**

voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your votes are properly cast. If all the members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with -- in concurrence with the Senate substitute Senate Bill 1049.

Total Number Voting	135
Necessary for Adoption	68
Those voting aye	135
Those voting nay	0
Absent and not voting	15

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar number 417.

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar number 417, favorable report of the joint standing Committee GAE, House Bill 6290, AN ACT CONCERNING DONATIONS MADE FROM JOINT CHECKING ACCOUNTS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The very distinguished Representative from the 91st District, Michael D'Agostino, you have the floor,

Sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Through -- afternoon -- afternoon, Mr. Speaker.
I move for acceptance of the joint committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
Will you remark, Sir?

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently under
Connecticut's campaign finance laws if a campaign
treasurer receives a check drawn on a joint checking
account but only signed by one account holder the
campaign treasurer can only allocate that donation to
the person who signs the check. This causes some
problems when both -- both holders of the joint
checking account would like to make a contribution but
of course typically only one holder of the account
signs a check.

To ameliorate that what this bill does it simply
creates an exception that says that if a campaign
treasurer receives a check along with written
statements from both holders of the joint account

explaining how they would like their donations allocated then the campaign treasurer can make that allocation. So by way of simple example, a \$100 check is -- is received along with two campaign contribution cards which set forth the \$50 amount that both person wants to contribute.

The treasurer can accept that check and make two -- and allocate two donations in his or her report. It came out of GAE unanimously. It's no fiscal impact. And I'd urge passage.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Do you care to remark? Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Ritter. Apparently Representative Ritter is not here. Do you care to remark further? We have a few folks who are on the board who are not at their seats. Representative Tony Hwang, you seem to be present and available to speak so we'll call on you, Sir. Would you please proceed.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am ready and available after a little bit of sleep. Right?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Absolutely.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, a question to the proponent of the bill. Through you, Sir.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. To the -- to the good Representative from the 91st District, can you give me a hypothetical that if a contributor wrote on a joint checking account a \$200 check under the Citizens Elections Program where the maximum contribution is \$100 per person could you take me through a hypothetical how this bill could resolve a problem of where a lot of treasurers have brought that to our attention?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Thank you and through you, Mr. Speaker. And thank the distinguished Ranking Member of GAE for his question. If the candidate is participating in the Citizens Election Program of course a \$200 donation normally would not be acceptable. The campaign treasurer would have to either return the check in

whole or make arrangements to return the portion that exceeded the \$100 amount.

But if this bill passes and the campaign treasurer receives along with the \$200 check two contribution cards filled out by both holders of the account specifying that they would like \$100 allocated to each of them then the campaign treasurer will be able to receive one check and allocate two qualifying contributions. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the good Representative for that very clarifying answer. I think this bill is a simple effort to simplify our campaign treasures' lives but at the same time maintaining the transparency and the real importance of maintaining contribution limits and ensuring that we are keeping good records.

I want to thank the good Representative for the excellent representation of it. I want to also thank Representative Pam Sawyer for her excellent work in working on this bill. I urge support of this bill. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Would you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Sawyer of the 55th.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And a thank you to the people on the GAE Committee, particularly the Chairman and the Ranking Member and the good Representative who brought out the bill today. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone in the room has had the experience so I think they understand this bill probably very easily without much explanation.

But you know one -- one of the things it does do is to relieve some embarrassment, the embarrassment of the contributor who -- or the couple who meant to do everything right. They gave you the two pieces of paper and they gave you the check with one signature on it. It was meant to cover both pieces of paper, the husband and the wife.

So you then have to go back and very politely ask them to please cut two checks. So I think it is -- it's a gracious bill as well that saves embarrassment for those people that intend to obey the law, that are interested, willing and want to contribute to each and

every one of our campaigns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
And again thank you to the committee.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Do you care to remark? Do
you care to remark further on the bill --

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Yes, Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have an amendment.
It's LCO number 7573. I'd ask the Clerk to call it
and be permitted to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7573 which will be
designated House Amendment A.

THE CLERK:

House Amendment A, LCO 7573 introduced by
Representatives Ritter and Nafis.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize
the amendment. Is there objection? Is there
objection? You may proceed with summarization, Sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very simple amendment proposed by the good Representatives from the 38th and 27th Districts. The original language in the bill required a written -- written statement to make the allocation. This just simply strikes the word written and substitutes the word signed -- signed statement, assuming that would just give some flexibility in terms of what the campaign treasurer could accept. I consider this a friendly amendment and urge adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Did you move adoption? Did you move adoption, Sir? I just didn't hear.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

I did.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment A. Would you care to remark? Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yes, I think this is a -- clears up a term of art in the language.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark

further on House Amendment A? Representative Hwang.
No? Would you care to remark further on House
Amendment A? If not, let me try your minds. All
those in favor of House Amendment A please signify by
saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The
amendment is adopted. Would you care to remark
further on the bill as amended?

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

If I may briefly, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to
thank the distinguished Ranking Member and of course
the committee Chairman for shepherding this through
committee and allowing me to present it to the Chamber
where I'm sure it's about to fail miserably.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Your words are prescient I'm
sure. Do you care to remark further on the bill as
amended? Do you care to remark further on the bill as
amended? If not, staff and guests to the well of the
House. Members take your seats. The machine will be
opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please report to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. And if all the members have in fact voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In a surprising turn of the events. House Bill 6290 as amended by House A.

Total Number Voting	137
Necessary for Adoption	69
Those voting aye	137
Those voting nay	0
Absent and not voting	13

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Grogins. Thank you. Any announcements or introductions? Representative Carpino.

S - 667

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 16
4803 - 5160**

cah/gbr
SENATE

332
June 4, 2013

House Bill 6705.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	21
Those voting Nay	14
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Will you remark?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam -- Madam President, yes I have some additional items to add to the Consent Calendar.

Madam President, the first item is on Calendar Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Next is Calendar Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

The third item is Calendar Page 3 -- excuse me
Calendar Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290.

cah/gbr
SENATE

333
June 4, 2013

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

The next item was an item previously marked passed temporarily and removed from the earlier Consent Calendar would now move it to the second Consent Calendar and that was a matter on Calendar Page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, Calendar Page 18, Calendar 686, House Bill 6528, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And one additional item, Madam President, Calendar Page 19, Calendar 689, House Bill 6677, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

cah/gbr
SENATE

355
June 4, 2013

Madam President, seeing no objection, would this item please be placed on our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney..

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, with that item being moved to the Consent Calendar, Madam President, there is an -- an item on the foot of the Calendar to be removed and, Madam President, on -- on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar Page 42, Calendar 648, House Bill 6660, would move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it passed retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, at this point if the Clerk would list the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5607; House Bill 6509; House Bill 5027. On Page 4, Calendar 459, House Bill 6622; on Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163.

HB6591

Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565. On Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290. Page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671. Also Calendar 686, House Bill 6528.

cah/gbr
SENATE

356
June 4, 2013

On Page 19, Calendar 689, House Bill 6677 and on Page 24, Calendar 484, Senate Bill Number 983.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Senate -- on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of any items voted on the second Consent Calendar needing additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

cah/gbr
SENATE

357
June 4, 2013

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also if there are any other items that were voted individually that may need additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude -- conclude our business for this evening or this morning at this point. Before adjournment I would yield the floor to any members for announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Any announcements or personal privilege?

Seeing none, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, for a -- a Journal notation. Senator Coleman was -- was absent and missed votes today due to -- due to illness.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, one other item. On the -- the -- the items on the foot of the Calendar beginning on Calendar Page 27, beginning with Calendar 59, on Calendar Page 27 at the beginning of the foot and

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS
PART 5
1351 - 1698**

2013

23
 law/gbr GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
 & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

March 18, 2013
 11:00 A.M.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, Representative Lesser.

SENATOR MUSTO: Other questions from members of the committee?

All right. Thank you very much.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR MUSTO: Next is Michael Brandi. I don't -- where is Mr. Brandi? There he is.

Welcome, Director.

MICHAEL BRANDI: Good morning, Chairman Musto, Chairman Jutila, Ranking Member Senator McLachlan and Representative Hwang, and distinguished committee members. I am Michael Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel for the State Elections Enforcement Commission. I am honored to speak before this committee this morning and I look forward to continuing my work with the committee on elections legislation. Today I'll be testifying on behalf of my commission's legislative initiatives this session contained in House Bills number 6633, 6634 and Senate Bills number 1119 and 1125 as well as speaking about Proposed Joint Resolution number 3.

I will also address those bills that suggest funding sources to party committees and finally express my -- express my commission's opposition to bills that allow special interest money into the Citizens' Election Program and add decreased transparency right before elections. I thank you for this opportunity to testify and along with me today will also be Shannon Kief, our Legal Program Director to answer any questions following my testimony.

HB6290
HB6632
SB1120
SB1126
SB1127
HB6289

March 18, 2013
11:00 A.M.

the bill clarifies the preexisting unincorporated groups such as PTOs are permitted to make expenditures for referendum advocacy or opposition.

Proposed Joint Resolution number 3, resolution memorializing Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to reverse the United States Supreme Court decision known as Citizens United. With respect to proposals on this agenda that are not initiated by elections enforcement on behalf of my commission we support proposed Joint Resolution number 3. As you know the Citizens' United decision of the United States Supreme Court has created a great deal of confusion and chaos in the realm of campaign financing. We support legislative action that would bring clarity and ensure that the people of Connecticut can have full faith in their government.

House Bill 6290, AN ACT CONCERNING DONATIONS MADE FROM A JOINT CHECKING ACCOUNT. The commission supports this effort to simplify treasurers' duties while still maintaining and allowing for accurate allocation of contributions. To this end we offer the following language; 9-606 B shall now provide as follows: subsection B, a contribution in the form of a check drawn on a joint bank account shall for the purpose of allocation be determined -- be deemed to be a contribution made by the individual who signed the check unless it is accompanied by a signed written certification if any from each of the holders of such joint bank account that indicates how such contributions should be differently allocated.

If a check is signed by more than one individual the total amount of the check shall

March 18, 2013
11:00 A.M.

be divided equally among the cosignors for the purpose of the allocation except such contributions shall be allocated in accordance with the provisions of a written certification, a statement if any from the holders of such joint bank account that indicates how such contributions should be differently allocated.

If a committee receives an anonymous contribution, the campaign treasurer shall immediately remit the contribution to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the General Fund. The language on this would help to clarify exactly how the allocations would be -- would be deemed by the -- by the -- by the treasurers.

House Bill 6632, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY CONTRIBUTE TO A TOWN COMMITTEE and Senate 1120, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY CONTRIBUTE TO A STATE CETNRA COMMITTEE OF A PARTY. As a result of the Green Party litigation in the middle of the 2010 election cycle the grant monies available to the gubernatorial candidates in certain circumstances were reduced by one third in the amounts available to General Assembly and other statewide candidates voluntarily participating in the CEP were reduced by two thirds.

This loss of funding negatively impacts the program by making those candidates who fear being targeted by negative independent expenditures or high spending opponents less willing to participate. Organization expenditures are one mechanism still available to support participating candidates facing such opposition.

House Bill 6632 and Senate Bill 1120 increase

March 18, 2013
11:00 A.M.

provide for that protection?

SUSAN W. LARSEN: Well most of the -- your town halls or city halls have vaults and also some of these registrar of voters have secured locations within their -- within their offices such as South Windsor has one where it would be locked up. There's only two keys in which the registrars are the only ones that have those keys. Not even maintenance or anything has the keys to get in there so it's locked and secured. So there are means. And these are things that we'd have to work out with the Secretary of the State's Office when you start to develop something like this.

REP. LEMAR: Terrific. And again thank you very much for your willingness to work with us as we develop this program. As you know getting our individuals out to the polls on a Tuesday between 6 A.M. and 8 P.M. is getting harder and harder and we're trying to find new and inventive ways to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to vote and so we do appreciate your organization's support of this.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you.

Other questions from members of the committee.

Seeing none, thank you.

SUSAN W. LARSEN: Thank you.

KAREN KRAWIECKI: Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Senator Butler.

SENATOR BUTLER: Good afternoon. My name is Representative Larry Butler. I represent the 72 district in Waterbury. Good afternoon

HB 6290
HB 6289

March 18, 2013
11:00 A.M.

cochairs, Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the GAE committee. I am here today to testify on bills H.B. 6289, AN ACT CONCERNING WEEKLY CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND H.B. 6290, AN ACT CONCERNING DONATIONS MADE FROM JOINT CHECKING ACCOUNTS. H.B. 6289 would eliminate weekly campaign finance reports due during the last month of election season.

Every candidate is extremely busy during the last month and to ask them to send -- to spend a couple hours with their treasurers to prepare and review these reports. This adds to the stress level during this time. Campaigns already are required to file report in January after election -- the November election and this should suffice. I thought the main idea of the citizen election program was to level the playing field not to educate one's opponent on how they should be spending their campaign funds. Besides diverting the campaigns from campaigning by requiring these reports I don't want to school my opponent on how they should spend their campaign funds. H.B. 69 -- H.B. 6290 is just common sense measure that will bring clarity to the contribution process.

This bill will prevent contributions from being returned when people with a joint account use one check in a contribution. I'd just like to add to this the testimony that I heard prior to coming here I'm glad to hear that the language for 6290 will be modified and accommodate that process. But also the comment was made about transparency and as it relates to the reporting. A month's worth of reporting for all the candidates here during the last months of election your campaigns are chaotic. I know everybody's hard pressed. Now going around here your -- your districts and campaigning

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Line Number 2

March 18, 2013

Page Number 3

Statement of Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel

*Proposed Joint Resolution No. 3,
House Bill Nos. 6633 & 6634; Senate Bill Nos. 1119 & 1125
And commenting on House Bills 6290 & 6632 and Senate Bil 1120,
And strongly opposing Senate Bill 1126 and 1127 and House Bill 6289*

Good morning, Chairperson Musto and Chairperson Jutila, Ranking Members Senator McLachlan and Representative Hwang, and distinguished Committee members. I am Michael Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission. I am honored to speak before this Committee this morning and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on elections legislation. Today I will be testifying on behalf of my Commission's legislative initiatives this session contained in House Bill Nos. 6633, 6634 and Senate Bill Nos. 1119 & 1125, and Proposed Joint Resolution No. 3. I will also address those bills which adjust funding sources to party committees and, finally, express my Commission's opposition to bills that allow special interest monies into the Citizens' Election Program and that decrease transparency right before elections. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The Commission's proposals this year seek to make life easier for treasurers and candidates, save critical funds for both the state and municipalities during this time of economic hardship and, ultimately, attempt to ensure the continued viability of the Citizens' Election Program in 2014 and the future.

H.B. 6634: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings

The Commission's first proposal, House Bill 6634, seeks to create efficiencies and savings on the municipal level and increase transparency by creating a pilot program whereby the State Elections Enforcement Commission ("Elections Enforcement") will perform filing repository duties for the offices of up to 20 municipal town clerks. Presently, town clerks are the filing repository for all municipal campaign finance filings, including those for municipal candidates and referenda. This creates a heavy burden on clerks' offices. In addition, committees that file with the town clerks cannot file their statements electronically, which in turn leads to decreased disclosure to the public. The Commission will work cooperatively with town clerks to free up municipal resources by potentially taking over such duties statewide.

Under the program, treasurers for candidates in participating towns will be able to choose to file their statements electronically. It is important to note that under this pilot program, candidates will still be able to make paper filings in person at the town clerk's office or through the mail if

treasurer – unless there has been a change in officer necessitating an appointment by the chairperson.

- The bill makes a technical change to the “house party” exemption to the definition of expenditure. When the legislature amended the “house party” exemption in Public Act 11-48, it amended the exception to the definition of “contribution”, but did not amend the parallel exception to the definition of “expenditure.” This rectifies the problem.

In addition, the bill creates an exception to the definition of “contribution,” permitting state central committees to set up a website or websites for the purpose of gathering online contributions for candidates for General Assembly and statewide office. This will help standardize the process of gathering online contributions so that it is compliant with the campaign finance law and regulations. This will also permit state central committees to raise online contributions for several party candidates simultaneously.

As for the independent expenditure provisions, the bill replaces the terms of art “contributors” and “contributions” in the attribution requirement with the terms “donors” and “donations,” clarifying that a nonprofit entity making independent expenditures must list the top five “donors” making the five largest “donations” on its advertisements and communications. The bill also requires such nonprofit entities to identify the aggregate amount of funds donated by each such “top five” donor on its financial disclosure statements. In addition, the bill clarifies that pre-existing unincorporated groups such as PTOs are permitted to make expenditures for referendum advocacy or opposition.

Proposed Joint Resolution No. 3 Resolution Memorializing Congress to Propose an Amendment to the United States Constitution to Reverse the United States Supreme Court’s Decision known as *Citizens United* HSR 3

With respect to proposals on this agenda that are not initiated by Elections Enforcement, on behalf of my Commission, we support Proposed Joint Resolution No. 3. As you know, the *Citizens United* decision of the United States Supreme Court has created a great deal of confusion and chaos in the realm of campaign finance. We support legislative action that would bring clarity and ensure that the people of Connecticut can have full faith in their government.

House Bill 6290 An Act Concerning Donations Made From a Joint Checking Account

The Commission supports this effort to simplify treasurers’ duties while still maintaining transparency and allowing for accurate allocation of contributions. To this end, we offer the following language:

9-606 (b) shall now provide as follows: (b) A contribution in the form of a check drawn on a joint bank account shall, for the purpose of allocation, be deemed to be a contribution made by the individual who signed the check, unless it is accompanied by a signed written certification, if any, from each of the holders of such joint bank account that indicates how such contribution should be differently allocated. If a check is signed by more than one individual, the total amount of the check shall be divided equally among the cosigners for the purpose of allocation,

except such contribution shall be allocated in accordance with the provisions of a written certification [statement], if any, from the holders of such joint bank account that indicates how such contribution should be differently allocated. If a committee receives an anonymous contribution, the campaign treasurer shall immediately remit the contribution to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for deposit in the General Fund.

House Bill 6632 An Act Concerning the Maximum Amount an Individual May Contribute to a Town Committee; and

Senate Bill 1120 An Act Concerning the Maximum Amount an Individual May Contribute to a State Central Committee of a Party

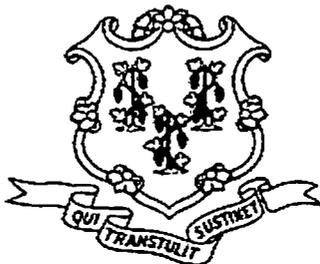
As a result of the Green Party litigation, in the middle of the 2010 election cycle the grant monies available to the gubernatorial candidates in certain circumstances were reduced by one third and the amounts available to General Assembly and other statewide candidates voluntarily participating in the CEP were reduced by two thirds. This loss of funding negatively impacts the Program by making those candidates who fear being targeted by negative independent expenditures or high spending opponents less willing to participate. Organization expenditures are one mechanism still available to support participating candidates facing such opposition.

House Bill 6632 and Senate Bill 1120 increase funding to party committees, which in turn can make organization expenditures to support targeted participating a candidates, from sources already permitted to contribute to those committees. The Commission supports legislative initiatives that support the Citizens' Election Program while protecting elections from the appearance of improper influence by special interests.

Senate Bill 1126 An Act Concerning Advertisement Books for State Central Committees; Senate Bill 1127 An Act Concerning Campaign Contributions by State Contractors; and House Bill 6289 An Act Concerning Weekly Campaign Financial Statements

The Commission strongly supports preserving the landmark legislative reforms passed by the legislature in 2005 in response to repeated corruption scandals; and therefore, opposes Senate Bill 1127 which would reinsert state contractors into campaign financing in Connecticut. The bill purports to make these changes in order to make the state contractor provisions similar to those now governing lobbyists. This proposal is both unnecessary under the Second Circuit's decision in the Green Party case as well as severely detrimental to the state's 2005 campaign finance reforms. It is important to keep in mind that State Contractors can already participate in the political campaign process by, for example, volunteering or attending campaign events. But they can't contribute money, because it creates an appearance of corruption and a possible avenue of influence as well.

The legislature passed the state contractor contribution prohibitions in the wake of *actual* corruption involving bribes, kickbacks and campaign contributions offered to state officials – including our governor - in exchange for lucrative state contracts. In 2010, the Second Circuit unanimously upheld the state contractor contribution bans because, unlike with the companion lobbyist provisions, there was a long history of scandals in Connecticut stemming from state contractor contributions. As the Second Circuit acknowledged “those scandals created a strong



State of Connecticut
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STATE CAPITOL
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Spoken
3/18/13

Line Number 90

Page Number 5

REPRESENTATIVE LARRY B. BUTLER
 SEVENTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

CO-CHAIR
 HOUSING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

MEMBER
 FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
 TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267
 EMAIL: Larry.Butler@cga.ct.gov

3/18/13

Hello Co-Chairs Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and distinctive members of the GAE committee.

I am here today to testify on bills HB-6289 AN ACT CONCERNING WEEKLY CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS and HB-6290 AN ACT CONCERNING DONATIONS MADE FROM JOINT CHECKING ACCOUNTS.

HB-6289 would eliminate the weekly campaign financial reports due during the last month of the election season. Every candidate is extremely busy during the last month and to ask them to send a couple of hours with their treasurers to both prepare and review these reports just adds to the stress level during this time. Campaigns already are required to file a report in the January after the November election and this should suffice. I thought the main idea of the CEF was to level the playing field not educate one's opponent on how they should be spending their campaign funds. Besides diverting the campaigns from campaigning by requiring these reports, I don't want to school my opponent on how they should spend their campaign funds.

HB-6290 is just a common sense measure that will bring clarity to the contribution process. This bill will prevent contributions from being returned when people with a joint account use one check in a contribution.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Butler

Rep. Larry B. Butler



State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

**Written
3/18/13**

**REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ALBERTS
FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

35 CORNFIELD POINT
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

HOME PHONE (860) 974-3663
CAPITOL PHONE (800) 842-1423
Mike.Alberts@housegop.ct.gov
www.repalberts.com

ASSISTANT LEADER

**RANKING MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE**

**MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE**

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Public Testimony
Monday, March 18, 2013

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of H.B. No. 6290, "AN ACT CONCERNING DONATIONS MADE FROM JOINT CHECKING ACCOUNTS."

This bill as proposed would provide potential donors who are married and share joint checking accounts with the opportunity to take advantage of the convenience to write one check if they would like to make contributions to campaigns for candidates they are both supportive of. I have been approached by multiple constituents that find that having to execute two separate checks is bulky and cumbersome, so this bill would certainly be a great convenience to campaign supporters.

Your committee's assistance in moving this bill forward is greatly appreciated.