



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [S7439A \(Skoufis\) / A5950A \(Paulin\)](#)

*Requires financial disclosure statements of candidates for office to be posted on the Joint Commission on Public Ethics website*

May 3, 2022

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to posting financial disclosure filings for candidates for statewide office or candidates for a member of the legislature.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 amends paragraph (k) of subdivision 2 of section 73-a of the public officers law, as amended by section 7 of part QQ of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to require the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government to post the financial disclosure filings it receives for candidates for statewide office and candidates for state legislature to its website within five days of receipt.

Section 2 sets the effective date as January 1, 2023.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Currently, financial disclosure statements for candidates for state office, including state legislature and statewide offices, must be filed with JCOPE, but are not published on JCOPE's website. Instead, the public must request them in order to view them. This is an unnecessary barrier that should be removed. In general, far more financial disclosure forms should be published on JCOPE and its successor state ethics commission's website, including those for candidates and, at a minimum, senior state and legislative officials.

Reinvent Albany supports this legislation because it will give the public easier access to information about candidates running for state office, including whether or not they have potential conflicts of interest arising from their own personal or family business interests.