



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### S9011 (Skoufis)

*Requires electronic filing of all financial disclosure statements to  
Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government*

May 10, 2024

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to requiring electronic filing of all financial disclosure statements.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 adds a new paragraph (l) to Public Officers Law §73-a(2) providing that:

1. Beginning on January 1, 2025, all financial disclosure filings shall be submitted on the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government's (COELIG) electronic filing system.
2. Anyone required to file financial disclosure statements (FDS) may request from COELIG or the individual's appointing authority access to a computer to file, and must be provided one within two days.
3. Filers will not be deemed delinquent if not provided a computer within two days.
4. Individuals may submit their FDS on a paper form if they can provide a note from a physician or other licensed health provider stating that a health issue prevents them from filing electronically.

Section 2 states that the act takes effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Our groups support this legislation because it will modernize state financial disclosure.

Every year, approximately [4,300 financial disclosure statements](#) are filed on paper. This archaic system places a burden on both the state workers processing the requests, and on members of the public seeking information in the forms. Requiring that financial disclosure statements be filed electronically will expedite the process and greatly increase transparency.

Because the legislation allows for paper filing in limited circumstances, we encourage COELIG, which [proposed](#) this change to the law, to report the number of paper filers in its annual reports to provide information about whether and how this exception should be maintained in the future.

We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.