



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S4857 (Skoufis) / A463 (Paulin)

Requires financial disclosure statements of candidates for office to be posted on the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government website

March 14, 2025

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.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Currently, financial disclosure statements for candidates for state office, including state legislature and statewide offices, must be filed with the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) but are not published on its 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 COELIG'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. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 amends Public Officers Law §73-a(2)(k) to require COELIG to post the financial disclosure filings it receives for candidates for statewide office and candidates for state legislature.

Section 2 amends Executive Law §94(13)(b)(i) to require to COELIG to post candidate financial disclosure forms on its website.

Section 3 states that the bill takes effect on January 1st following the year it is enacted.