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SB 9 SPONSOR STATEMENT

An Act repealing the authority to include certain material from a political party in the election pamphlet

Senate Bill 9 amends Title 15 *Elections* regulating the content of election pamphlets, and repeals the authority to include advertising from a political party in the publicly funded election pamphlet. The election pamphlet produced by the Division of Elections is intended to provide information about candidates, initiatives and judges to help voters be knowledgeable about matters that will be on their election ballot.

The Division of Elections reports that the revenue generated by political party submissions was \$2,400 in the last election pamphlet, less than 1% of the cost of producing and mailing the document. Every election cycle voters are bombarded with political mailings, flyers, and radio and television advertisements. The publicly funded election pamphlet should not be a platform for political advertising, but a source of free, unbiased, in-depth information about current officials, candidates, issues, and legislation.

Senate Bill 9 will help keep the election pamphlet as informative as possible and will prohibit advertising by political parties.