

**EXHIBIT B**

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News

## Lawmakers to tweak campaign finance program

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HARTFORD — The General Assembly is set to come into session Friday to deal with fixes to the campaign finance program, while the fate of one of its grants to a state comptroller candidate has been put off for a day.

State Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, D-New Haven, said lawmakers will look to fix a "trigger" mechanism in the Citizens' Election Program rejected by the courts as unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, a challenge in Superior Court to a \$375,000 grant to Democratic comptroller candidate, Kevin Lembo, will continue today with 15 days to the Aug. 10 primary. He has only been allowed to spend up to \$30,000 so far.

Under the CEP, participants now can get matching funds up to \$2.5 million in a gubernatorial primary fight and up to \$6 million in the general election, if a non-participating opponent is a high spender.

When the "trigger" function is eliminated, Democrat Dan Malloy and Republican Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele, the two gubernatorial candidates in the program, would only have \$3 million for the general election, if each wins his party's primary.

Looney said the easiest fix is to increase the basic grant beyond \$3 million and he wants it done before the primary. State Rep. James Spallone, D-Old Saybrook, said in past elections, governors M. Jodi Rell and John Rowland both spent more than \$3 million. He wants to see the basic grant extended somewhat beyond this "to give participants a fighting chance."

He said other aspects, such as allowing candidates to raise more than \$100 per contributor, could be dealt with next year. Spallone said he would also like lawmakers to disallow "bundling" by lobbyists.

The U.S. 2nd District Court of Appeals threw out a provision of the current Connecticut law that did not allow any contributions by lobbyists and their families. Spallone said Connecticut should still ban bundling that occurs when lobbyists hold fundraisers where clients and friends of clients contribute to a candidate.

He said before campaign finance reform was adopted, lobbyists would hold such events with a lot of money raised outside a candidate's district.

Waterbury Mayor Michael Jarjura challenged the grant to Lembo, when the State Elections Enforcement Commission allowed him to raise additional "buffer" money beyond the \$75,000 required after the July 16 deadline. Jarjura is running against Lembo for the Democratic nomination. Lembo's lawyer has said he will be severely handicapped in the race if the grant is disallowed.

In four other challenges, on different grounds, by Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Foley to funds granted to Fedele, the SEEC was upheld in federal and state courts.

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