



TESTIMONY TO THE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

HB 157 Election Law - Campaign Finance - Exploratory Committees

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters supports campaign finance regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions, and combat corruption.

Exploratory committees have been exempted from the accountability and transparency expectations that other campaign finance committees must follow. This bill would establish reporting requirements and prohibitions for exploratory committees. It also defines essential safeguards, including regulations for the receipt of funds, permissible expenditures, and the disbursement of funds and assets once a committee disbands.

Transparent elections are paramount to safeguarding our elections. This bill would increase transparency for voters and the money that goes into campaigns. By allowing voters to know how campaigns are being financed, they can also hold candidates accountable. Candidates should be held responsible for any funds they raise in their bid for office, whether through their official campaigns or by forming exploratory committees.

We urge a favorable report on HB 157.