

**Draft Bill on Public Financing****"§ 160A-499. Uniform, nondiscriminatory program of public financing of election campaigns.**

A governing body of a county with a population exceeding 50,000 according to the most recent decennial federal census may appropriate funds for a uniform program of grants to the campaigns of candidates for county office in that county, if the grants are available to any candidate for an office who meets a set of criteria drawn by the county, the criteria are drawn to further the public purpose of free elections and do not discriminate for or against any candidate on the basis of race, creed, position on issues, status of incumbency or non-incumbency, or party affiliation, and the grants are restricted to use for campaign purposes.

A governing body of a city with a population exceeding 30,000 according to the most recent decennial federal census may appropriate funds for a uniform program of grants to the campaigns of candidates for city office in that city, if the grants are available to any candidate for an office who meets a set of criteria drawn by the city, the criteria are drawn to further the public purpose of free elections and do not discriminate for or against any candidate on the basis of race, creed, position on issues, status of incumbency or non-incumbency, or party affiliation, and the grants are restricted to use for campaign purposes.

Any county or city exercising authority under this section shall report its action to the State Board of Elections and the county board of elections in any county in which it has territory."