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**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ADVANCES QUIGLEY BILL TO
IMPOSE ELECTORAL & CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES ON LT.
GOVERNOR CANDIDATES**

(TRENTON) – Legislation Assemblywoman Joan M. Quigley sponsored to impose electoral and campaign finance requirements upon Lieutenant Governor candidates was released today by an Assembly panel.

The new post that will become effective in January when the state swears-in its first lieutenant governor. Voters in 2005 approved a state constitutional amendment creating the new post.

“While creating this post was backed by voters and will help keep in line the historic checks and balances so valued in American democracy, we also must make sure candidates for this new position are held to high standards and expectations,” said Quigley (D-Hudson). “This bill will impose the same tough reporting, debating and disclosure requirements the public has come to expect from their gubernatorial candidates.”

As provided by the constitution, candidates for Lieutenant Governor will be selected by the gubernatorial candidates within 30 days following the primary election.

The Governor will appoint the Lieutenant Governor, without the advice and consent of the Senate, as either the head of a principal department or another executive or administrative state agency, except that the Governor cannot appoint the Lieutenant Governor to serve as the Attorney General.

Under the bill (A-3902), candidates for Lieutenant Governor and Governor, who under the constitution are to seek election conjointly, would be treated as one candidate for the purposes of campaign contribution and expenditure limits and public financing.

The bill also requires that, when a gubernatorial candidate is accepting public financing and is required, therefore, to participate in two debates, the candidates for Lieutenant Governor will be required to participate in one debate.

Under the bill, a candidate for Lieutenant Governor must meet the same campaign financial disclosure requirements as a candidate for Governor, except that the disclosure statement would be required to be filed on or before the 30th day following the day the candidate for Lieutenant Governor is selected by the gubernatorial candidate.

This different deadline recognizes that the Lieutenant Governor candidate may not be selected on the same day that the gubernatorial candidate is nominated.

The bill also requires a candidate for Lieutenant Governor to disclose involvement with an issue advocacy committee, as gubernatorial candidates are required to do.

Finally, the bill gives the Election Law Enforcement Commission the authority to issue any advisory opinions that relate to candidates for Lieutenant Governor, including temporary regulations that may be adopted on an emergency basis, as the commission deems necessary.

“This bill would ensure the public is confident their Lieutenant Governor candidates are abiding by the same campaign ethics and financial report requirements as those running for Governor,” Quigley said. “After all, the Lieutenant Governor may someday become our state’s chief executive. They should face the same stringent requirements.”

The Assembly State Government Committee released the measure 5-0. It now heads to the Assembly Speaker, who decides if and when to post it for a floor vote.

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