

Campaign Finance Bill Heading For R.I. Senate Vote

By Katherine Gregg

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- While all eyes have been on the state budget in recent days and weeks, lawmakers intent on changing the state's campaign finance rules have been making progress.

The full Senate is slated to vote Wednesday on a bill to erase the current \$2,000 limit on contributions to candidates who participate in the state's publicly-funded matching funds program, and rewrite the rules that govern what all candidates - including candidates - must do to qualify for these campaign subsidies. Being a party's nominee would no longer be sufficient.

Example: A candidate for governor would have to raise at least \$25 each from 250 donors, and other candidates for statewide office, at least \$25 each from 100 people.

Stay tuned.