
By: **Delegates Howard, Kirk, and Harrison**
Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly - District Office Allowance - Postage Expenditures**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing members of the General Assembly to charge to the
4 members' district office allowances the costs of certain mailings to constituents
5 and community organizations; providing for exceptions; and generally relating
6 to postage expenditures by members of the General Assembly.

7 BY adding to
8 Article - State Government
9 Section 2-109
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1999 Replacement Volume)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - State Government**

15 2-109.

16 (A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND
17 SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY MAY CHARGE TO THE MEMBER'S DISTRICT OFFICE ALLOWANCE THE
19 COST OF MAILINGS TO CONSTITUENTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

20 (2) THE MAILINGS ALLOWED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
21 SUBSECTION ARE:

22 (I) COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC ISSUES OR
23 RESPONSES TO CONSTITUENTS' INQUIRIES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES;

24 (II) LETTERS TO CONSTITUENTS ON BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE
25 MEMBER;

1 (III) LETTERS TO CONSTITUENTS THAT PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF
2 THE MEMBER'S OR THE GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES OR ACTIONS ON AN ISSUE OR
3 SERIES OF ISSUES;

4 (IV) LETTERS ASKING FOR POSITIONS ON BILLS AND LEGISLATIVE
5 ISSUES;

6 (V) LETTERS ON THE GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
7 MEMBERS; AND

8 (VI) NEWSLETTERS AND QUESTIONNAIRES.

9 (B) A MEMBER MAY NOT CHARGE TO THE MEMBER'S DISTRICT OFFICE
10 ALLOWANCE THE COST OF MAILINGS TO CONSTITUENTS OR COMMUNITY
11 ORGANIZATIONS THAT:

12 (1) ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS;

13 (2) ARE PRINTED ON THE MEMBER'S CAMPAIGN STATIONERY; OR

14 (3) IN ANY MANNER SOLICIT ANY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS OR
15 FUNDS.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2000.