

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 71 (Delegate Arnick)

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Restriction on Fund-Raising - Legislative Session

This bill prohibits individuals who have filed certificates of candidacy for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senator, or State Delegate from engaging in fund-raising activities during a regular session of the General Assembly. Individuals acting on a candidate's behalf are also subject to the restriction. The State Board of Elections can initiate a civil action in circuit court against a candidate thought to be in violation of the bill. If the court finds the candidate to be in violation, the candidate must refund the contribution and pay a civil penalty of \$1,000 plus the amount of the contribution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Since the circuit courts have jurisdiction over violations of the bill, local revenues could increase minimally through the collection of fines.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and members of the General Assembly as well persons acting on behalf of these officeholders may not engage in fund-raising activities during a regular session of the General Assembly. The fund-raising activities expressly prohibited by current law and the bill are (1) receiving campaign contributions; (2) conducting a fund-raising event to receive a campaign contribution; (3) soliciting or selling tickets to a fund-raising event; and (4) depositing a contribution collected before the session began. Officeholders are subject to the same

penalties that the bill provides for candidates.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2000
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