

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 71 (Delegate Arnick)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Election Law - Restriction on Fund-Raising - Legislative Session**

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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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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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