

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 67 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental – Elections, State Board of)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Campaign Accounts - Administrative Closure

This departmental bill authorizes the State Board of Elections to close a campaign account upon a determination that good cause exists and that: (1) an officer affiliated with the account would be able to close the account except for outstanding obligations that are more than five years old; (2) there are no current officers appointed and serving in connection with the campaign account; or (3) other extenuating circumstances exist to justify closing the account.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal decrease in the State Board of Elections' expenditures due to reduced printing, photocopying, handling, and storage costs.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The State Board of Elections has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Elections does not have the authority to close campaign accounts.

Background: Campaign fund reports must be filed with the State Board of Elections for all open campaign accounts even if there is no financial activity or a responsible financial officer for the account. Approximately 50 campaign accounts remain open due to long-standing, unpaid obligations. The State Board of Elections is required to send compliance information to open accounts even if there is no financial activity or any responsible officer. The bill would end the reporting requirements for these campaign accounts without terminating the legal or financial liability incurred by the campaign's officers or candidate.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 16, 2001
jm/hlb

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