

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 587 (Senator Kittleman)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Election Laws - Continuing Political Committees for State Officeholders -
Carryover Campaign Funds**

This bill provides that continuing political committees affiliated with a member of the General Assembly or any other person elected to statewide office may not carry over, from one election cycle to another, campaign funds in excess of the greater of \$10,000 or 10% of the aggregate contributions received during the preceding four-year election cycle. Political committees that have outstanding campaign obligations from a prior election may carry over enough funds to cover these costs. Any excess campaign funds that are carried over after an election cycle must be disposed of within 60 days after the general election in which the Governor is elected in accordance with current law applicable to political committees in existence for a four-year election cycle only.

The bill is effective January 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Requiring continuing political committees to dispose of excess campaign contributions at the end of a four-year election cycle would not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Noncontinuing committees are required under State law to dispose of any remaining campaign funds through distribution to: (1) contributors, pro rata; (2) the State central committee; (3) the local central committee; (4) a local school board or nonprofit; or (5) a public or private institution of higher learning. Continuing political committees are required to make periodic financial statements, but there are no restrictions on surplus funds left in the campaign account. These funds can be carried over and used for expenditures in future elections.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, HB 630 was introduced in the 1998 session. It was unfavorably reported from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2002
ncs/jr

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