

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 357
Ways and Means

(Delegate Glassman)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Campaign Expenditures - Payment by Check Card or Debit Card

This bill authorizes a campaign finance entity to make a disbursement using a check card or debit card that has been issued to the entity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute prohibits a campaign finance entity from directly or indirectly making a disbursement except by a check from a designated campaign account. A campaign finance entity or individual authorized by the entity may pay an expense of the entity from funds other than the campaign account if: (1) the expense is supported by a receipt provided to the campaign finance entity; and (2) the campaign finance entity reimburses the person who paid the expense by check from the campaign account and reports the expense as an expenditure of the campaign.

Background: The bill is in response to the increasing number of vendors that no longer accept paper checks for payment. Currently, check card or debit card expenditures are made by a campaign through the check card or debit card of individuals, who are then reimbursed by check from the campaign account.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical bills, HB 476 of 2003 and HB 170 of 2004, were each passed by the House but received unfavorable reports from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2005
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510