

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 930

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Filing Deadlines for Pre-Primary Election and Post-General
Election Campaign Finance Reports

This bill modifies certain campaign finance report filing deadlines. The campaign finance report deadline on the fourth Tuesday immediately preceding each primary election is moved to the fifth Tuesday immediately preceding each primary election. The deadline on the third Tuesday after a general election is moved to the second Tuesday after a general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: State campaign finance laws, which are administered by the State Board of Elections (SBE), regulate various aspects of campaign finance activity in the State, including actions of candidates and campaign finance entities (through which all campaign finance activity generally must be conducted) and the extent to which individuals and entities can contribute to campaigns.

For each election in which a campaign finance entity participates, it generally must file campaign finance reports at various times prior to and after the primary and general elections. The reports must contain information required by SBE with respect to all

contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the campaign finance entity during a reporting period. The current deadlines prior to and after elections are:

- except for a ballot issue committee (a campaign finance entity formed to promote the success or defeat of a ballot question), the fourth Tuesday immediately preceding a primary election;
- except for a ballot issue committee, the second Friday immediately preceding a primary election;
- the last Tuesday in August immediately preceding a general election;
- the second Friday immediately preceding a general election; and
- the third Tuesday after a general election.

In 2014, the gubernatorial primary election will be held on June 24 and the gubernatorial general election will be held on November 4.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2014
mc/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 2014

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