HOUSE BILL 963

G1 (6lr2372)

ENROLLED BILL

— Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs — Introduced by Delegates Luedtke, Hixson, A. Washington, and M. Washington

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Sealed	with	the	Great	Seal	and	pres	ented	to	the	Gove	rnor,	for h	nis a	approval	this
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1 AN ACT concerning

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2 Campaign Finance – Ballot Issue Committees – Prospective Questions

FOR the purpose of altering certain campaign finance law definitions to include campaign finance activity relating to prospective questions to be placed on the ballot; prohibiting a chief election official from certifying a petition if the petition sponsor fails to provide proof of filing a certain campaign finance report; repealing certain requirements that a statement of contributions and expenditures for a petition be filed at the time the petition is filed; prohibiting a circulator from collecting signatures for certain petitions until the sponsor of the petition establishes a ballot issue committee; requiring a petition sponsor's ballot issue committee to file a campaign finance report at the time the petition is filed; requiring a ballot issue committee opposing a prospective question to file a campaign finance report within a certain number of days after the petition to place the question on the ballot is filed; and generally relating to campaign finance activity relating to prospective questions to be placed on the ballot.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

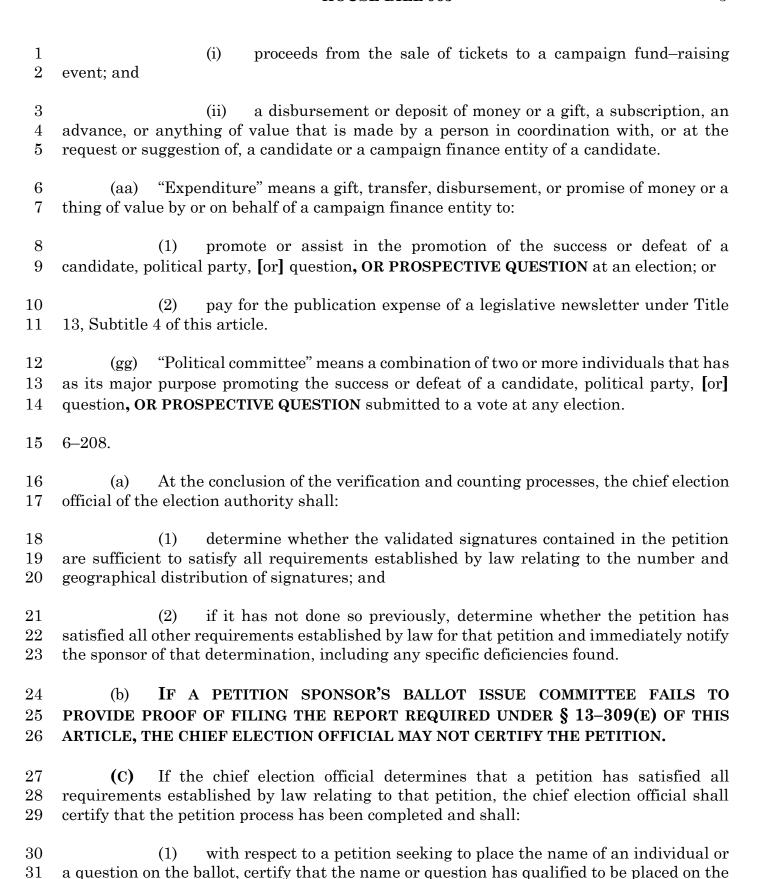
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 2 3 4 5	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Election Law Section 1–101(f), (k), (o), (aa), and (gg), 6–208, 7–104(c), and 13–202 Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
6 7 8 9 10	BY adding to Article – Election Law Section 13–309(e) Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
11 12	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
13	Article – Election Law
14	1–101.
15 16 17	(f) "Ballot issue committee" means a political committee that is formed to promote the success or defeat of a question OR PROSPECTIVE QUESTION to be submitted to a vote at an election.
18	(k) (1) "Campaign material" means any material that:
19	(i) contains text, graphics, or other images;
20 21	(ii) relates to a candidate, a prospective candidate, or the approval or rejection of a question OR PROSPECTIVE QUESTION ; and
22	(iii) is published or distributed.
23	(2) "Campaign material" includes:
24 25	(i) material transmitted by or appearing on the Internet or other electronic medium; and
26	(ii) an oral commercial campaign advertisement.
27 28 29 30	(o) (1) "Contribution" means the gift or transfer, or promise of gift or transfer, of money or other thing of value to a campaign finance entity to promote or assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, [or] question, OR PROSPECTIVE QUESTION.
31	(2) "Contribution" includes:

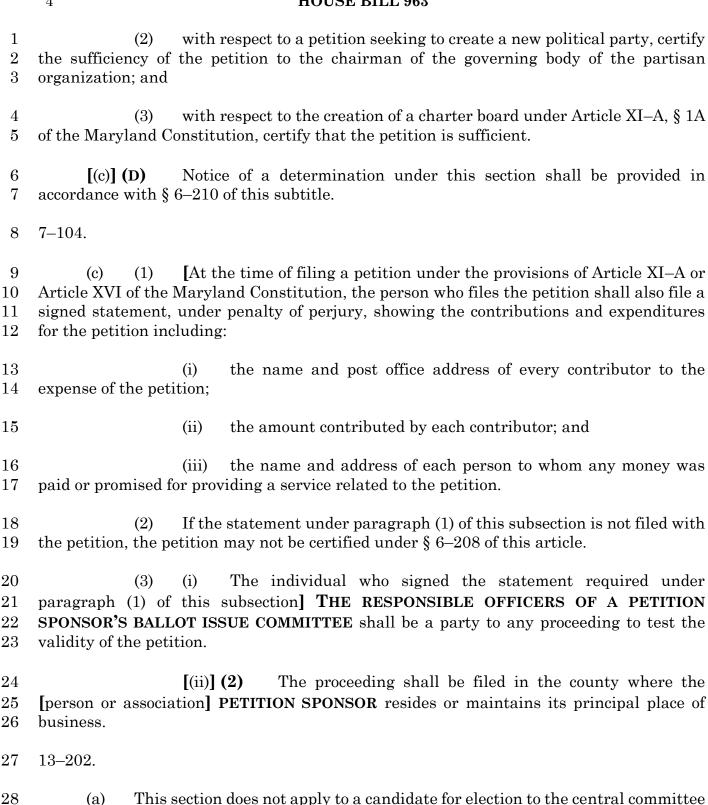


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ballot;

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30 (1) spend more than \$1,000 in personal funds; or

of a political party if the candidate during an election cycle does not:

(2) accept contributions.

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$\frac{1}{2}$	(b) Unless otherwise expressly authorized by law, all campaign finance activity for an election under this article shall be conducted through a campaign finance entity.
3 4 5	(c) An individual may not file a certificate of candidacy or a declaration of intent under § 5–703 or § 5–703.1 of this article until the individual establishes, or causes to be established, an authorized candidate campaign committee.
6 7 8 9	(D) A CIRCULATOR MAY NOT COLLECT SIGNATURES FOR A PETITION UNDER ARTICLE XI-A, ARTICLE XI-F, OR ARTICLE XVI OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION OR <u>UNDER</u> § 9–205 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE UNTIL THE SPONSOR OF THE PETITION ESTABLISHES A BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE.
0	13–309.
11 12 13	(E) (1) This subsection applies to a ballot issue committee formed to support or oppose a prospective question under Article XI-A, Article XI-F, or Article XVI of the Maryland Constitution or § 9–205 of the Local Government Article.
15 16 17	(2) A PETITION SPONSOR'S BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE SHALL FILE A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT AT THE TIME THE PETITION IS FILED UNDER § $6-205$ OF THIS ARTICLE.
18 19 20 21	(3) A BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE OPPOSING A PROSPECTIVE QUESTION SHALL FILE A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE PETITION TO PLACE THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT IS FILED UNDER \S 6–205 OF THIS ARTICLE.
22 23	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.
	Approved:
	Governor.
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.