



# Maryland State Board of Elections

## HB 951 Election Law – Disclosure of Contributions by Persons Doing Public Business-Enforcement Delegate Washington

### **Purpose:**

To clarify the manner and process for the imposition of late fees on contribution disclosure statements filed by a person doing public business. Additionally, the legislation allows the State Prosecutor to seek civil penalties

### **Comments:**

The State Board of Elections offers informational testimony on the proposed legislation.

Title 14 of the Election Law Article requires a business entity having a single contract of \$200,000 or more with a governmental body file a contribution disclosure statement detailing the political contributions and donations given by the officers of the business entity. In 2013, the General Assembly passed HB 1499 on the recommendations of the Commission to Study Campaign Finance Law to make enforcement similar to that of a political committee's campaign finance reporting; Title 13 of the Election Law Article.

However, the language in the current law does not completely mirror the manner and process dictated under Title 13. The bill closes any enforcement loopholes and follows the recommendations and intent of the Commission's report. The proposed legislation clarifies the process for the State Board to issue fines against a late filing by a business. Additionally, the bill codifies the waiver process for a reduction in late filing fees. Finally, the legislation grants civil prosecution to the Office of the State Prosecutor.

### **Contacts:**

Jared DeMarinis, Director, Candidacy and Campaign Finance  
410-269-2853 or [jared.demarinis@maryland.gov](mailto:jared.demarinis@maryland.gov)

**LINDA H. LAMONE, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

W & M 2/18/2020