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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB374: Campaign Finance - Special Session of the General Assembly - Contributions
Prohibited**
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 4, 2021 | 11:00am

Last March, the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) adjourned early for fear of an outbreak of COVID-19 among legislators and their staff. During the interim, a handful of legislators [called for a Special Session](#) to address issues related to racial injustice and the economic effects of the pandemic. While we did not meet again in 2020, it is important that we plan for the future.

Sixty-one times, the General Assembly has convened in Special Session. Current law prohibits legislators from accepting donations during the Legislative Session. [SB374](#) simply seeks to extend the current prohibition to include special sessions.

This new restriction would ensure that our government is functioning transparently and without influence from special interests. Even if legislators are not persuaded by contributions, it removes even the *appearance* of corruption. Alaska, Connecticut, New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington already have similar laws. Maryland should take this simple but important step to support government accountability and transparency.

I urge a favorable report of SB374.