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PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 1, 2021

House Bill 1350 Campaign Finance - Revisions

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1350 Campaign Finance - Revisions**, which would require a treasurer (or in certain instances the chairperson) of a campaign finance entity to approve, rather than make, all disbursements for the entity. This bill also requires campaign finance entities that are liable for civil penalties from violating specified requirements to subsequently submit bank statements with future campaign finance reports.

Accurate and transparent campaign reporting is critical for a fair and democratic election process. To ensure all campaign donations are being made and funds are being spent in accordance with the law, any campaign finance activity for an election must be conducted through a political committee with one or more designated campaign accounts that all campaign funds must be deposited into; and an appointed campaign chairperson and treasurer must file required financial reports detailing all campaign contributions and expenditures within specified time periods.

HB 1350 requires that campaign finance entity's that have unauthorized fundraising or payments, fail to track and report required campaign financial information, or have otherwise become liable for a civil campaign violation penalty, submit bank statements and additional documentation with all subsequent campaign finance reports. These bank statements should document all expenditures made by or on behalf of the campaign finance entity during the reporting period and include all personal identifying information, including redacted bank account numbers. This bill also allows for disbursements by a campaign finance entity to be approved, rather than made by the treasurer or chairperson.

To uphold the integrity of our elections, we must close any loopholes that enable misconduct and hold politicians who attempt to abuse the system for personal gain accountable. In 2020, this committee voted in favor of this legislation to ensure integrity in our elections, and I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 1350** again this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins