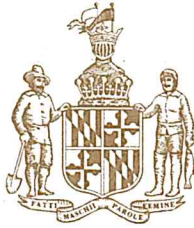


**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
*Legislative District 27*  
Calvert, Charles and  
Prince George's Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700  
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
Environment

*District Office*  
250 Merrimac Court  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 15***

***ELECTION LAW – CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT***

***EDUCATION, HEALTH, & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE***

***JANUARY 26, 2022***

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 15 is a straightforward piece of legislation that does two significant things. It changes from three years to four years, the amount of time to institute the prosecution or the imposition of a civil fine relating to an election law offense. It also gives the Office of the State Prosecutor civil enforcement authority over violations of Title 14 law violations which relate to the reporting requirements of business entities with large State contracts.

Election law offenses are often very complex cases to investigate. While the State Board of Elections is able to handle minor administrative election law violations, they require the assistance of the Office of the State Prosecutor for cases involving significant amounts of complexity. The State Board of Elections makes every attempt to protect those who unknowingly commit violations and allows them to bring campaign finance accounts into compliance. These efforts to bring accounts into compliance, however, often last well over a year putting the Office of the State Prosecutor at a severe disadvantage in investigating egregious violations and bringing forward potential charges.

The election law crimes investigated by the Office of the State Prosecutor are often masked to make their detection extremely difficult to ascertain within the current three year time frame. The added amount of time that this legislation would provide, along with the civil enforcement authority that it would give the Office of the State Prosecutor, would help prosecutors better do their job of holding those accountable who intentionally and maliciously seek to undermine the integrity of our campaign finance laws.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 15.**