

Testimony Against HB0906

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB0906.

I am against

- requiring certain political organizations to include certain disclaimers and statements on certain solicitations;
- authorizing the State Administrator of Elections to investigate a potential violation of the Act; and
- authorizing the State Board after the issuance of a public report of its findings to prohibit a person who violated the Act from making further solicitations for a certain period or impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.

This bill did not have a fiscal or policy note available at the time I prepared this testimony to help me better understand the current process versus the proposed process.

What is considered a scam political action committee (PAC)?

On the surface, it seems to make sense that a PAC should not be able to use the likeness of a candidate in ads without the candidate's permission. I can see the need for a PAC to make a disclosure if it did not receive permission. Likewise, it seems to make sense that a disclaimer should be made to remind potential donors that any money contributed to the solicited cause is not tax deductible (I see that now on almost every solicitation for political contributions or contributions to groups lobbying for law changes.

What concerns me is that this bill does not apply to all PACs. In particular, PACs associated with corporations and unions are exempt from these requirements.

Unless the bill applies to all PACs, or I hear compelling testimony at the hearing as to why corporations and union PACs should be excluded, please enter an unfavorable report against HB0906.

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