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**By: Delegate Kagan**

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Committee Report: Favorable  
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Read second time: March 6, 1996  
Recommitted to: Commerce and Government Matters, March 8, 1996  
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 18, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Campaign Reports**

3 [TAG ftpo]FOR the purpose of prohibiting the ~~use of~~ information obtained solely from certain  
4 campaign documents filed with election boards from being sold or used for  
5 commercial purposes or to solicit any type of contributions; specifying a certain  
6 exception; and generally relating to limiting the use of information obtained from  
7 certain campaign documents.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 26-14  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 33 - Election Code**

16 26-14.

17 (A) Every officer or board shall receive, file and preserve all reports, statements,  
18 and accounts relating to campaign contributions and expenditures which are required to  
19 be filed by this article. These reports, statements, and accounts shall be kept as part of the  
20 records of the officer or board for a period not to exceed five years or for at least one year

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1 beyond the length of the term of the public or party office for which every candidate to  
2 whom these reports, statements, or accounts apply, has offered himself for nomination or  
3 election, regardless if the candidate is successful, unsuccessful, or resigns, or for a longer  
4 period if ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. These reports, statements, and  
5 accounts shall be subject and open to inspection by any citizen of this State during the  
6 hours in which the office in which the reports, statements, and accounts are kept is open.  
7 Thereafter, the reports, statements, and accounts shall be transferred to the State  
8 Archives. Before transferring any reports, statements or accounts to the State Archives,  
9 the officer or board with whom they were filed shall make a permanent record of all  
10 election reports required to have been filed by § 26-11 but which have not been filed. The  
11 permanent record shall include the name of the candidate or the committee, the  
12 treasurer, an identification of the missing report, and, if a final report, a notation of the  
13 amount of any outstanding balance, bills or deficits as shown on the last report filed. The  
14 officer or board shall file a copy of this permanent record with the State Administrative  
15 Board of Election Laws and with the State Archives. Copies of these reports, statements  
16 and accounts certified by the principal administrative officer in whose office they are kept  
17 under the seal of his office shall be evidence in any court to the same extent as the  
18 original report, statement or account would be if produced and proved.

19 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
20 INFORMATION OBTAINED SOLELY FROM REPORTS, STATEMENTS, OR ACCOUNTS  
21 REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE SOLD OR USED FOR COMMERCIAL  
22 PURPOSES OR TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING POLITICAL OR CHARITABLE  
23 CONTRIBUTIONS.

24 (2) THE CANDIDATE ~~WHO~~ OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE THAT FILED THE  
25 REPORTS, STATEMENTS, OR ACCOUNTS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION MAY USE THE  
26 INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 1996.