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**By: Delegates Dembrow and Genn**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1996  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - General Assembly - Fund-Raising During the Session**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a candidate for election to the General Assembly from  
4 soliciting a campaign contribution during any session of the General Assembly; and  
5 generally relating to campaign contributions.

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

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

13 **Article 33 - Election Code**

14 26-9.

15 (d) (1) Except as provided in subsections (e) and (e-1) of this section, it is  
16 unlawful for any individual, association, unincorporated association, corporation, or any  
17 other entity either directly or indirectly, to contribute any money or thing of value greater  
18 than \$4,000 to any candidate or political committee or to contribute money in excess of  
19 \$100 except by check in any 4-year election cycle. Contributions may be made by credit  
20 card, not to exceed \$100 per transaction, to any candidate or political committee under  
21 this subsection. Total contributions by a contributor under this subsection shall not  
22 exceed \$10,000 in any 4-year election cycle.

23 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the limit on  
24 contributions during a 4-year election cycle by the governing body for a political party or  
25 local central committee shall be as follows:

26 (i) For a statewide governing body for a political party, not more than  
27 \$1 for every two registered voters in the State, regardless of party affiliation, as of January  
28 1 following the preceding gubernatorial election; and

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1 (ii) For the governing body of a local central committee for a political  
2 party, not more than \$1 for every two registered voters in the county, regardless of party  
3 affiliation, as of January 1 following the preceding gubernatorial election.

4 (3) (i) The limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and  
5 subsection (e)(1) of this section shall apply to each 4-year election cycle beginning on  
6 January 1 following the gubernatorial election and continuing until December 31 that is 4  
7 years later.

8 (ii) Without regard to when a contribution or transfer is expended or  
9 used, the contribution or transfer shall be charged against the limitation for the election  
10 cycle in which:

11 1. The check is written or dated; or

12 2. The cash or other thing of value is received.

13 (4) A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY  
14 NOT SOLICIT OR ACCEPT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DURING ANY SESSION OF THE  
15 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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