

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 359 (Delegate Dembrow)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Election Laws - Continuing Political Committees for State Officeholders -  
Carryover Campaign Funds**

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This bill prohibits continuing political committees affiliated with members of the General Assembly or any other persons elected to statewide offices from carrying over funds from the preceding four-year election cycle in excess of certain amounts. These amounts are \$20,000 for a member of the House of Delegates or Senate and \$50,000 for a person elected to any other statewide offices. These thresholds are increased by an amount sufficient to pay any outstanding campaign obligations incurred by a continuing political committee in a prior election.

Within one year after a gubernatorial election, any carryover funds in excess of the amounts specified must be paid to the State general fund.

Continuing political committees with carryover funds on October 1, 1996 (from the four-year election cycle that ended December 31, 1994) have until October 1, 1997 to comply with the bill's requirements.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate significant amount beginning in FY 1997 due to the payment of excess carryover funds from the four-year election cycle ending December 31, 1994. After FY 1997, revenues could increase on a quadrennial basis beginning with FY 1999. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase in fiscal 1997 depending upon the number of continuing political committees affiliated with State officeholders and the amount of excess carryover funds from the four-year election cycle ending December 31, 1994. Although the amount of excess carryover funds is unknown, the revenue increase could be significant. There are between 560 and 700 continuing political committees affiliated with State officeholders depending upon the election cycle. For instance, if each committee had excess carryover funds of \$1,000 on a quadrennial basis, revenues would increase in the range of \$560,000 and \$700,000 every fourth year.

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**Information Source(s):** State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 1996

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