
**By: Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee,
and Delegates Dewberry, Hurson, Arnick, Busch, Harrison, Hixson, Kopp, Menes,
Owings, Rawlings, and Vallario**

Requested: July 31, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Campaign Fund-Raising Reports - Computerization**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain campaign finance reports be submitted to and
4 maintained by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws in an electronic
5 medium; requiring the State Board to provide certain materials to persons required
6 to file certain campaign fund reports and authorizing the State Board to charge
7 reasonable fees for the materials; requiring the State Board to make the campaign
8 finance report information that it maintains in an electronic medium easily
9 accessible to the public; defining certain terms; requiring the State Board to adopt
10 certain regulations; and generally relating to the filing and maintenance of certain
11 campaign finance reports in an electronic medium.

12 BY adding to

13 Article 33 - Election Code
14 Section 1-1(a)(6B)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article 33 - Election Code
19 Section 26-11(l) and 26-12
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

24 **Article 33 - Election Code**

25 1-1.

26 (a) As used in this article the following terms shall have the meanings indicated
27 unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

2

1 (6B) "ELECTRONIC MEDIUM" MEANS A COMPUTER DISK OR OTHER
2 INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL MEDIUM APPROVED BY THE STATE
3 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS.

4 26-11.

5 (l) (1) A candidate and treasurer designated by that candidate, the chairman
6 and treasurer of a candidate's committee, or a slate of candidates, who are required to
7 file reports or statements under subsection (a), (d)(1), or (e)(3) of this section with the
8 State Administrative Board of Election Laws, shall also file a single copy of all reports,
9 statements, and affidavits required under this section with the local election board of the
10 county or Baltimore City where the candidate resides. The report to the local [election]
11 board [shall]:

12 (I) SHALL be filed according to the schedule set forth in subsections
13 (a) and (d) of this section;

14 (II) SHALL BE IN AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM OR IN PAPER COPY, AS
15 DIRECTED BY THE LOCAL BOARD; and

16 (III) [shall not be] IS NOT subject to the requirements relating to the
17 assessment of a late filing fee provided under § 26-13 of this article.

18 (2) This subsection does not apply to candidates for the offices of Governor,
19 Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, or judge of an appellate court.

20 26-12.

21 (a) The forms for the "Report or Statement of Campaign and Election
22 Contributions and Expenditures" and the "Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements"
23 shall be prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

24 (b) A candidate or candidates for election or elected to a public office of the
25 United States shall file a copy of each statement required by federal laws or regulations
26 with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws. Additional campaign report filings
27 by the candidate are not required.

28 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ALL CAMPAIGN
29 FINANCE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER § 26-11 OF THIS ARTICLE WHICH MUST BE
30 FILED WITH THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL BE
31 SUBMITTED TO AND MAINTAINED BY THE STATE BOARD IN AN ELECTRONIC
32 MEDIUM.

33 (2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL
34 ACCEPT ANY CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT THAT IS SUBMITTED IN AN ELECTRONIC
35 MEDIUM WHICH MEETS THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD.

36 (3) UPON REQUEST, THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION
37 LAWS SHALL:

38 (I) SUPPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS REQUIRED TO FILE REPORTS IN
39 AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND THE DISKS OR OTHER

3

1 MEDIA ON WHICH THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION IS TO BE ENTERED AND
2 CHARGE A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE MATERIALS PROVIDED; OR

3 (II) ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON REQUIRED TO FILE REPORTS IN
4 AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM, ENTER ON A DISK OR OTHER MEDIUM THE CAMPAIGN
5 FINANCE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THAT PERSON AND CHARGE A
6 REASONABLE FEE FOR THE SERVICE AND MATERIALS PROVIDED.

7 (4) THE STATE BOARD MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT OR PROCESS ANY
8 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT OR CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION THAT IS
9 INCOMPLETE OR NOT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
10 THIS SECTION.

11 (5) THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL
12 MAKE THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION THAT IS FILED WITH AND
13 MAINTAINED BY THE STATE BOARD IN AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM WIDELY AND
14 EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, UTILIZING ANY EXISTING PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
15 SYSTEMS FOR DATA DISSEMINATION, AND ON TERMS THAT THE STATE BOARD
16 CONSIDERS CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
17 ARTICLE.

18 (D) THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS SHALL ADOPT
19 REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 1997.