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**By: Delegate M. Burns**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

**2 Employers - Prohibiting Campaign Contributions by Employees - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an employer from prohibiting a campaign contribution by  
4 an employee; prohibiting an employer from penalizing or retaliating against an  
5 employee for making a campaign contribution; providing a penalty; and generally  
6 relating to campaign contributions by employees.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article 33 - Election Code  
9 Section 24-26  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

14 **Article 33 - Election Code**

15 24-26.

16 (a) (1) Except as provided in §§ 2-8(b)(2) and 27-1(a), at every election held in  
17 this State, every employer, whether a body corporate, firm or individual, shall allow any  
18 employee who is a registered voter in the State a period not to exceed two hours absence  
19 from work on election day, if the employee does not have two hours of continuous  
20 off-duty during the time the polls are open, with pay, to vote, and the employee shall  
21 furnish to the employer proof that he has voted. [For failure thereof, the employer shall  
22 be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall for each and every offense  
23 pay a fine not exceeding the sum of \$500 or be imprisoned in jail for a period not  
24 exceeding six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.] Upon request, the judges of  
25 election shall furnish to the employee a receipt indicating such proof as required above.

26 [(b)] (2) The receipt evidencing proof of voting by any employee shall be on a  
27 form prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

28 (B) AN EMPLOYER, OTHER THAN A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, MAY NOT:

29 (1) PROHIBIT AN EMPLOYEE FROM MAKING A CAMPAIGN  
30 CONTRIBUTION; OR

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1                   (2) PENALIZE OR IN ANY WAY RETALIATE AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE FOR  
2 MAKING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.

3                   (C) (1) AN EMPLOYER WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A  
4 MISDEMEANOR AND UPON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500  
5 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS OR BOTH.

6                   (2) EACH ACT IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

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