

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 2 (Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Commerce and Government  
Matters Committee, *et al.*)

Commerce & Government Matters Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

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**Election Law - Fund-Raising During Legislative Session - Prohibition**

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This amended bill prohibits the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, members of the General Assembly, or any person acting on their behalf from collecting contributions, conducting fund-raising events, or soliciting or selling tickets to fund-raising events during a regular session of the General Assembly. Violators are subject to the applicable penalties under existing State law of a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

However, an affected individual may conduct fund-raising activities during the time period above if the individual is a candidate for election to a federal or local government office. Also, a candidate who receives public funds under the Fair Campaign Financing Act may accept money from eligible private contributions, but only in the year of the election.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalties.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in expenditures due to the applicable penalties. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**Small Business Effect:** Fund-raising activities for State-elected officials that normally would occur year-round would be shifted to the last nine months of the year. This shift may impact small businesses that provide or support fund-raising activities by affecting their cash flow or level of services. Although the actual impact cannot be determined, it is assumed to be minimal.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 1997  
lc Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 1997

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