

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 3 (Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters  
Committee, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters      Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

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**Lobbyist Solicitation of Contributions - Statewide Offices - Prohibition**

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This amended bill expands the prohibition against lobbyists from soliciting or transmitting contributions to include the campaigns of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller. Currently, the provision only applies to members of the General Assembly.

The bill also prohibits lobbyists from serving on a fund-raising or political committee for the benefit of these State officials. Violators are subject to the applicable penalties under existing law of a fine up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

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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. No effect on revenues.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** Currently, there are between 550 and 650 registered lobbyists in Maryland. This bill would prohibit lobbyists from engaging in certain activities related to the solicitation and transmittal of political contributions to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or a member of the General Assembly. To the extent that a lobbyist has provided these services in the past, this bill would eliminate a portion of the lobbyist's business, resulting in an indeterminate loss of revenue for the lobbyist. In addition, the lobbyist may find it more difficult to attract new clients if he or she is unable to

provide the services prohibited by the bill. 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, State Ethics Commission, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 1997  
nrd Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 1997

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