

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 275 (Senator McFadden)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commission to Study the State's Campaign Finance Laws

This bill establishes a ten-member Commission to Study the State's Campaign Finance Laws. The commission's mission is to review (1) the State's election laws as they relate to campaign finances; (2) the degree of compliance with campaign finance laws; (3) the State Administrative Board of Election Laws' enforcement capabilities; (4) the law relating to the integration of computer technology into the administration of campaign finance laws; (5) other states' campaign finance laws; and (6) whether the limitations on contributions and campaign fund-raising promote the public's confidence in the electoral process. The commission must submit proposed changes to the law that will improve the effective regulation of campaign fund-raising and expenditures and ensure compliance with campaign finance laws. The Department of Legislative Reference must provide staff support.

The commission must issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 1997.

The bill is effective from June 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Expense reimbursements would depend upon the time, location, and frequency of the commission's meetings. It is expected that reimbursements for the six legislators and the representative of the Attorney General's Office could be handled with existing budgeted resources of the affected agencies. Thus, only three members of the commission could entail additional general fund expenditures for travel expenses. These expenditures are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the Executive Department's existing resources.

The Department of Legislative Reference could provide staff support with its existing resources.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1997

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