ENROLLED BILL

-- Economic and Environmental Affairs/Commerce and Government Matters --

Introduced by **Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee**
       (Departmental - Elections, State Board of)

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

_____
                                              Proofreader.

_____
                                              Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____M.

_____
                                              President.

CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Election Laws - Campaign Finance Reports - Computerization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Administrative Board of Election Laws to
4   exempt certain candidates, certain accounts, and certain political committees
5   from the requirement that all campaign finance reports be filed with the State
6   Board in an electronic storage format; and generally relating to the filing and
7   maintenance of certain campaign finance reports in an electronic medium.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9   Article 33 - Election Code
10   Section 26-12
11   Annotated Code of Maryland
12   (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 *BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,*
14   *Article 33 - Election Code*

1   *Section 13-402(e)*
2   *Annotated Code of Maryland*
3   *(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)*
4   *(As enacted by Chapter   (S.B. 118/H.B. 127) of the Acts of the General*
5   *   Assembly of 1998)*

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

8   **Article 33 - Election Code**

9 26-12.

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

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

17   (c)   (1)   (i)   Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,
18 beginning with the campaign finance report that is due in November 1997, all
19 campaign finance reports required under § 26-11 of this article which must be filed
20 with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws may be submitted to and
21 maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format.

22   (ii)   Beginning with the campaign finance report that is due in
23 November 1997, all campaign finance reports that are required under § 26-11 of this
24 article which must be filed with the State Board by a statewide candidate and any
25 political committee affiliated with the candidate shall be submitted to and
26 maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format.

27   (2)   (i)   The State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall accept
28 any campaign finance report that is submitted in an electronic storage format which
29 meets the criteria developed by the State Board under subsection (f) of this section.

30   (ii)   Beginning in November 1997, the State Board shall make the
31 campaign finance information that is submitted in an electronic storage format
32 available to the public by making the computer disk submitted by the candidate or
33 committee available for duplication.

34   (d)   (1)   Beginning with the campaign finance report due in November 1999,
35 all campaign finance reports required under § 26-11 of this article which must be
36 filed with the State Board shall be submitted and maintained by the State Board in
37 an electronic storage format.

1   (2)   Beginning in November 1999, upon request, the State Administrative
2 Board of Election Laws shall supply to a person who is required to file reports in an
3 electronic storage format the computer software and the disks or other media on
4 which the campaign finance information is to be entered.

5   (3)   Beginning in November 1999, the State Administrative Board of
6 Election Laws shall make the campaign finance information that is filed with and
7 maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format widely and easily
8 accessible to the public, utilizing any existing public or private systems for data
9 dissemination, and on terms that the State Board considers consistent with the
10 purposes and requirements of this article.

11   (e)   The State Board may:

12   (1)   [refuse] REFUSE to accept or process any campaign finance report
13 that is incomplete or not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this
14 section; AND

15   (2)   EXEMPT CANDIDATES, PERSONAL TREASURER ACCOUNTS, AND
16 POLITICAL COMMITTEES WITH DE MINIMIS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FROM SUBMITTING
17 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS IN AN ELECTRONIC STORAGE FORMAT.

18   (f)   The State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall:

19   (1)   Develop specifications for the submission of campaign finance reports
20 in an electronic storage format; and

21   (2)   Adopt regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this
22 section.

23   *SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland*
24 *read as follows:*

25   *Article 33 - Election Code*

26 *13-402.*

27   *(e)   The State Board may:*

28   *(1)   [refuse] REFUSE to accept or process any campaign finance report*
29 *that is incomplete or not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this section;*
30 *AND*

31   *(2)   EXEMPT CANDIDATES, PERSONAL TREASURER ACCOUNTS, AND*
32 *POLITICAL COMMITTEES WITH DE MINIMIS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FROM SUBMITTING*
33 *CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS IN AN ELECTRONIC STORAGE FORMAT.*

1   SECTION 2. *3.* AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That *Section 1 of* this Act
2 shall take effect June 1, 1998.

3   *SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act*
4 *shall take effect January 1, 1999, contingent on the taking effect of Chapter _____ (S.B.*
5 *118/H.B. 127) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998, and if Chapter _____ does*
6 *not become effective, Section 2 shall be null and void without the necessity of further*
7 *action by the General Assembly.*