

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 630 (Delegates Kittleman and Dembrow)

Commerce and Government Matters

**Election Laws - Continuing Political Committees for State Officeholders -
Carryover Campaign Funds**

This bill provides that continuing political committees affiliated with a member of the General Assembly or any other person elected to statewide office may not carry over, from one election cycle to another, campaign funds in excess of the greater of \$10,000 or 10% of the aggregate contributions received during the preceding four-year election cycle. Political committees which have outstanding campaign obligations from a prior election may carry over enough funds to cover these costs. Any excess campaign funds that are carried over after an election cycle must be disposed of within 60 days after the general election in which the governor is elected in accordance with current law for political committees which are in existence for a four-year election cycle only. Thus, continuing political committees are required to dispose of any remaining campaign funds through distribution to: (1) contributors, pro rata; (2) the State central committee; (3) the local central committee; (4) a local school board or non-profit; or (5) a public or private institution of higher learning.

The bill is effective January 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Requiring continuing political committees to dispose of excess campaign contributions at the end of a four-year election cycle would not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 2, 1998

ncs

Analysis by: Thomas Hickey

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710