

HOUSE BILL 976

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1999 Regular Session
(9r2189)

ENROLLED BILL

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

Introduced by **Delegates Franchot, Hixson, and Heller**

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.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Campaign Finance Reports - Use of Electronic Medium for Submission**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain campaign finance reports required to be
4 filed with the State Board of Elections be submitted on a diskette; allowing
5 those campaign finance reports, beginning with a certain date, to be filed with
6 the State Board of Elections using any electronic medium approved by the State
7 Board; and generally relating to the submission of campaign finance reports.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 33 - Election Code
10 Section 13-402(d), (e), and (f)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

1

Article 33 - Election Code

2 13-402.

3 (d) (1) (I) ~~Beginning with the campaign finance report due in November~~
4 ~~1999, all campaign finance reports~~ ALL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS DUE BEFORE
5 NOVEMBER 1, 2000, AS required under § 13-401 of this subtitle ~~which must, SHALL~~ be
6 filed with the State Board ~~shall be submitted~~ ON A DISKETTE and maintained by the
7 State Board in an electronic storage format.

8 (II) BEGINNING WITH THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT DUE IN
9 NOVEMBER 2000, ALL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER § 13-401 OF
10 THIS SUBTITLE WHICH MUST BE FILED WITH THE STATE BOARD MAY BE SUBMITTED
11 USING ANY ELECTRONIC MEDIUM APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD.

12 (2) Beginning in November 1999, upon request, the State Board shall
13 supply to a person who is required to file reports [in an electronic storage format]
14 USING AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM the computer software and the disks or other media
15 on which the campaign finance information is to be entered.

16 (3) Beginning in November 1999, the State Board shall make the
17 campaign finance information that is filed with and maintained by the State Board in
18 an electronic storage format widely and easily accessible to the public, utilizing any
19 existing public or private systems for data dissemination, and on terms that the State
20 Board considers consistent with the purposes and requirements of this article.

21 (e) The State Board may:

22 (1) Refuse to accept or process any campaign finance report that is
23 incomplete or not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this section; and

24 (2) Exempt candidates, personal treasurer accounts, and political
25 committees with de minimis financial activity from submitting campaign finance
26 reports [in an electronic storage format] USING AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM.

27 (f) The State Board shall:

28 (1) Develop specifications for [the submission of] SUBMITTING
29 campaign finance reports [in an electronic storage format] USING AN ELECTRONIC
30 MEDIUM; and

31 (2) Adopt regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this
32 section.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 1999.

