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By: **Delegates Franchot, Hixson, and Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

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:

15 **Article 33 - Election Code**

16 13-402.

17 (d) (1) (I) Beginning with the campaign finance report due in November  
18 1999, all campaign finance reports required under § 13-401 of this subtitle which  
19 must be filed with the State Board shall be submitted ON A DISKETTE and  
20 maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format.

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

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

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

6       (e)       The State Board may:

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

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

12       (f)       The State Board shall:

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

16           (2)       Adopt regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this  
17 section.

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