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By: **Senators Roesser and Miller**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Contributions from State-Funded Entities - Prohibited**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain political contributions by certain  
4 State-funded entities; and generally relating to political contributions.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article 33 - Election Code  
7 Section 13-212  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

12 **Article 33 - Election Code**

13 13-212.

14 (a) (1) Except as provided in §§ 13-213 and 13-214 of this subtitle, it is  
15 unlawful for any individual, association, unincorporated association, corporation, or  
16 any other entity either directly or indirectly, to contribute any money or thing of value  
17 greater than \$4,000 to any candidate or political committee or to contribute money in  
18 excess of \$100 except by check in any 4-year election cycle. Contributions may be  
19 made by credit card, not to exceed \$100 per transaction, to any candidate or political  
20 committee under this subsection. Total contributions by a contributor under this  
21 subsection shall not exceed \$10,000 in any 4-year election cycle.

22 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the limit on  
23 contributions during a 4-year election cycle by the governing body for a political party  
24 or local central committee shall be as follows:

25 (i) For a statewide governing body for a political party, not more  
26 than \$1 for every two registered voters in the State, regardless of party affiliation, as  
27 of January 1 following the preceding gubernatorial election; and

1 (ii) For the governing body of a local central committee for a  
2 political party, not more than \$1 for every two registered voters in the county,  
3 regardless of party affiliation, as of January 1 following the preceding gubernatorial  
4 election.

5 (3) (i) The limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and  
6 § 13-213 of this subtitle shall apply to each 4-year election cycle beginning on  
7 January 1 following the gubernatorial election and continuing until December 31 that  
8 is 4 years later.

9 (ii) Without regard to when a contribution or transfer is expended  
10 or used, the contribution or transfer shall be charged against the limitation for the  
11 election cycle in which:

- 12 1. The check is written or dated; or
- 13 2. The cash or other thing of value is received.

14 (b) Except as otherwise provided by law, an individual, association,  
15 unincorporated association, corporation, or other entity may make contributions in  
16 accordance with the limitations on contributions set forth in this section, provided  
17 that, for the purpose of determining the maximum amount that a corporation may  
18 contribute, a contribution by a corporation and any wholly owned subsidiary of the  
19 corporation or 2 or more corporations owned by the same stockholders shall be  
20 considered as being made by 1 contributor.

21 (C) IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY ASSOCIATION, UNINCORPORATED  
22 ASSOCIATION, CORPORATION, OR ANY OTHER ENTITY THAT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR  
23 INDIRECTLY, DERIVES THE MAJORITY OF ITS OPERATING FUNDS FROM STATE  
24 FUNDING TO CONTRIBUTE ANY MONEY OR THING OF VALUE TO ANY CANDIDATE OR  
25 POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

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