

SENATE BILL 345

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1999 Regular Session  
9lr0758

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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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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 23, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

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

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

11          (3)     (i)     The limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and  
12 § 13-213 of this subtitle shall apply to each 4-year election cycle beginning on  
13 January 1 following the gubernatorial election and continuing until December 31 that  
14 is 4 years later.

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

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

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

27          (C)     IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY ASSOCIATION, UNINCORPORATED  
28 ASSOCIATION, CORPORATION, OR ANY OTHER ENTITY THAT, ~~EITHER DIRECTLY OR~~  
29 ~~INDIRECTLY~~, DERIVES THE MAJORITY OF ITS OPERATING FUNDS FROM STATE  
30 FUNDING TO CONTRIBUTE ANY MONEY OR THING OF VALUE TO ANY CANDIDATE OR  
31 POLITICAL COMMITTEE DURING A 4-YEAR ELECTION CYCLE.

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

