

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 584 (Senator Van Hollen. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Campaign Finance Reform Act

This bill prohibits a candidate or a candidate's committee from receiving more than 20% of their total contributions from "political action committees." Violations are subject to a civil penalty equal to twice the amount of funds that exceed the 20% limit if the amount is \$500 or more. The bill also authorizes the State Board of Elections, represented by the State Prosecutor, to institute a civil action for a violation of the prohibition. For elections held during 1999, the prohibition only applies to transfers received on or after January 1, 2000.

The bill is effective June 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The civil penalty provision of this bill is not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations. The State Board of Elections could monitor campaign finance reports with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 1999

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