

HOUSE BILL 49

Unofficial Copy  
G1

2000 Regular Session  
0lr0678

(PRE-FILED)

---

By: **Delegate Getty**

Requested: October 14, 1999

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

---

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2000

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Contributions - Credit Cards**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain limitation on the amount of contributions that  
4 may be made by credit card to candidates and political committees; and  
5 generally relating to campaign contributions.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article 33 - Election Code  
8 Section 13-212  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

13 **Article 33 - Election Code**

14 13-212.

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

1 contributor under this subsection shall not exceed \$10,000 in any 4-year election  
2 cycle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (c) It is unlawful for any association, unincorporated association, corporation,  
30 or any other entity that derives the majority of its operating funds from State funding  
31 to contribute any money or thing of value to any candidate or political committee  
32 during a 4-year election cycle.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2000.

