
By: **Delegates Guns, Bozman, Rudolph, W. Baker, Conway, and Eckardt**
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - State or Local Central Committees - Contributions -**
3 **Exemption from Electronic Filing Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting certain State or local central committees for a political
5 party from the requirement to submit certain campaign finance reports using
6 an electronic storage medium; providing that certain State or local central
7 committees for a political party may submit its campaign finance reports using
8 an electronic medium; and generally relating to the requirement that certain
9 State or local central committees for a political party submit certain campaign
10 finance reports using an electronic storage medium.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article 33 - Election Code
13 Section 13-402
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

18 **Article 33 - Election Code**

19 13-402.

20 (a) The forms for the "Report or Statement of Campaign and Election
21 Contributions and Expenditures" and the "Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements"
22 shall be prescribed by the State Board.

23 (b) A candidate or candidates for election or elected to a public office of the
24 United States shall file a copy of each statement required by federal laws or
25 regulations with the State Board. Additional campaign report filings by the candidate
26 are not required.

27 (c) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,
28 beginning with the campaign finance report that is due in November 1997, all

1 campaign finance reports required under § 13-401 of this subtitle which must be filed
2 with the State Board may be submitted to and maintained by the State Board in an
3 electronic storage format.

4 (ii) Beginning with the campaign finance report that is due in
5 November 1997, all campaign finance reports that are required under § 13-401 of this
6 subtitle which must be filed with the State Board by a statewide candidate and any
7 political committee affiliated with the candidate shall be submitted to and
8 maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format.

9 (2) (i) The State Board shall accept any campaign finance report that
10 is submitted in an electronic storage format which meets the criteria developed by the
11 State Board under subsection (f) of this section.

12 (ii) Beginning in November 1997, the State Board shall make the
13 campaign finance information that is submitted in an electronic storage format
14 available to the public by making the computer disk submitted by the candidate or
15 committee available for duplication.

16 (d) (1) (i) All campaign finance reports due before November 1, 2000, as
17 required under § 13-401 of this subtitle, shall be filed with the State Board on a
18 diskette and maintained by the State Board in an electronic storage format.

19 (ii) Beginning with the campaign finance report due in November
20 2000, all campaign finance reports required under § 13-401 of this subtitle which
21 must be filed with the State Board may be submitted using any electronic medium
22 approved by the State Board.

23 (2) Beginning in November 1999, upon request, the State Board shall
24 supply to a person who is required to file reports using an electronic medium the
25 computer software and the disks or other media on which the campaign finance
26 information is to be entered.

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

32 (e) (1) The State Board may:

33 [(1)] (I) Refuse to accept or process any campaign finance report
34 that is incomplete or not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this
35 section; and

36 [(2)] (II) [Exempt] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
37 SUBSECTION, EXEMPT candidates, personal treasurer accounts, and political
38 committees with de minimis financial activity from submitting campaign finance
39 reports using an electronic medium.

1 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
2 STATE BOARD SHALL EXEMPT A STATE OR LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR A
3 POLITICAL PARTY FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT ITS CAMPAIGN FINANCE
4 REPORTS USING AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM IF, DURING A CALENDAR YEAR, THE
5 AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DO NOT
6 EXCEED \$10,000. AT ITS OPTION, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NONETHELESS MAY
7 SUBMIT ITS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS USING AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM.

8 (f) The State Board shall:

9 (1) Develop specifications for submitting campaign finance reports using
10 an electronic medium; and

11 (2) Adopt regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this
12 section.

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