

SENATE BILL 520

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SB 584/99 - EEA

2000 Regular Session  
0lr1754

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By: **Senators Van Hollen, Frosh, Sfikas, Conway, Dyson, and Pinsky**  
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Campaign Finance Reform Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain candidates or committees from receiving more  
4 than a certain percentage of aggregate transfers from political action  
5 committees; establishing certain civil penalties for certain violations under  
6 certain circumstances; authorizing the State Board of Elections, represented by  
7 the State Prosecutor, to institute a civil action for certain violations; defining a  
8 certain term; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to  
9 campaign financing.

10 BY adding to

11 Article 33 - Election Code  
12 Section 13-216  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 33 - Election Code**

18 13-216.

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE" MEANS A POLITICAL  
20 COMMITTEE THAT IS NOT:

21 (1) A POLITICAL PARTY;

22 (2) A CENTRAL COMMITTEE; OR

23 (3) A POLITICAL COMMITTEE ORGANIZED AND OPERATED BY AND  
24 SOLELY ON BEHALF OF AN INDIVIDUAL RUNNING FOR ANY ELECTIVE OFFICE.

25 (B) (1) A CANDIDATE OR A CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE MAY NOT RECEIVE  
26 TRANSFERS FROM POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES THAT, IN THE AGGREGATE, ARE

1 MORE THAN 20% OF THE CANDIDATE'S AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
2 TRANSFERS RECEIVED FROM ALL PERSONS BEFORE EACH ELECTION.

3 (2) THE DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER A CANDIDATE OR A  
4 CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
5 SUBSECTION SHALL BE BASED ON THE FINAL ELECTION REPORT SUBMITTED  
6 BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION AND BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION IN  
7 ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-401(A)(2) OF THIS TITLE.

8 (C) IF A CANDIDATE OR A CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE RECEIVES AGGREGATE  
9 TRANSFERS FROM POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES THAT EXCEED 20% OF THE  
10 CANDIDATE'S AGGREGATE RECEIPTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS FROM  
11 ALL PERSONS AND THE AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE 20% IS \$500 OR MORE, THE  
12 CANDIDATE IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY THAT IS EQUAL TO TWICE THE AMOUNT  
13 OF THE FUNDS THAT EXCEED \$500.

14 (D) THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, REPRESENTED BY THE STATE  
15 PROSECUTOR, MAY INSTITUTE A CIVIL ACTION FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THIS  
16 SUBSECTION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except for any election  
18 subject to the provisions of Article 33 of the Code that is held during the 2000  
19 calendar year, the provisions of this Act shall apply to contributions and transfers  
20 received by a candidate or the candidate's committee on or after January 1, 2000. For  
21 purposes of any election held during the 2000 calendar year, the provisions of Article  
22 33, § 13-216 of the Code as enacted by this Act shall apply to contributions and  
23 transfers received by a candidate or the candidate's committee on or after January 1,  
24 2001.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
26 effect June 1, 2000.