

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 381 (Senator Frosh. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Identification

This bill requires a “political action committee” that makes a transfer to the treasurer or political committee of a candidate or a slate of candidates to display its official name and the words “political action committee” or “PAC” in a prominent place on the face of the check making the transfer. The bill also defines political action committee and repeals the requirement that a candidate’s county of residence be identified on the ballot in an election for an office that represents more than one county. However, a candidate for the General Assembly who is running for office in an election district that includes more than one county will still be identified by county on election ballots.

The bill is effective July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional monitoring of campaign financing checks received by candidates could be supported with the existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: None. Dropping county identification from ballots would not materially affect the finances of local governments.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no definition of political action committee. No transfer of any kind is permitted if it is intended to conceal the identity of the contributor or the recipient. However, no special identification of political action committees on transfer checks is required. A candidate's county of residence is identified on ballots in an election for any State office that represents more than one county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A substantially similar bill was introduced in the 1999 session as HB 951. It passed the House but was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2000
jjr/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 2000
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 10, 2000

Analysis by: Mark Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510