

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 566 (Senator Jacobs. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Election Law - Campaign Reports by Political Committees - Expenditures Made on
Behalf of Candidates**

This bill requires a political committee to disclose the name of each candidate for whose benefit expenditures were made by the committee. For an expenditure that benefitted more than one candidate, the political committee must list the proportion of the expenditure that is ascribed to each candidate. Expenditures made for the internal administration of the committee are not subject to the requirement. A person in violation of the bill is subject to maximum penalties of a \$1,000 fine or imprisonment for one year, or both. This requirement is effective for any report filed after November 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would require a one-time expenditure of approximately \$100,000 in FY 2001 for the State Board of Elections to have its software vendor modify the database that captures campaign finance report information.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Political committees must file campaign finance reports in electronic formats prescribed by the State Board of Elections at specified intervals. Reports from political committees are not required to include the candidate or candidates who benefitted from a transfer or contribution.

State Expenditures: The State Board of Elections and the software vendor that it employs advise that changes to the campaign finance database would be necessary to incorporate new fields into the database, to alter tables in the database, and to allow the board to query the new information from the database. The modification would require about six months of work at a total cost of approximately \$100,000. This is a one-time cost that would be incurred in fiscal 2001.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2000
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