

BY: Commerce and Government Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1248

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, after “Pendergrass,” insert “Pitkin,”; strike beginning with “Public” in line 2 down through “Assembly” in line 3 and substitute “Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland”; and strike beginning with “system” in line 4 down through “Assembly” in line 18 and substitute “Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland; specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Commission; providing for the staffing of the Commission; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislative changes, to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Commission; and generally relating to the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 1 through line 7 on page 2, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 9, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”; and after line 9 insert:

“(a) There is a Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland.

(b) The Commission shall consist of the following 19 members:

(1) Five individuals, four of whom shall be members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate, including one senator representing the minority party in the Senate;

(2) Five individuals, four of whom shall be members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including one delegate representing the minority party; and

(Over)

(3) Nine individuals, at least five of whom shall be members of a political party other than that of the Governor, appointed by the Governor, including:

(i) A member of the State Board of Elections;

(ii) A member of the State Ethics Commission;

(iii) A regulated lobbyist; and

(iv) Six additional individuals.

(c) The Chairman of the Commission shall be designated by the Governor.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services and the State Board of Elections shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) The Commission shall:

(1) Examine the practice of public funding of state legislative campaigns in the United States;

(2) Examine the State election code as it relates to changes needed to have public funding of election campaigns;

(3) Collect information about campaign financing practices and standards for other jurisdictions;

(4) If appropriate, propose recommendations for implementing a system of public financing of statewide and legislative election campaigns in Maryland;

(5) Consider issues related to campaign contributions, including:

(i) The types of individuals, corporations, political action committees (PACs), unions, and other persons who make campaign contributions for elections in Maryland;

(ii) The role played by PACs in election campaigns in Maryland;

(iii) The impact and practicability of current limits on contributions or transfers that may be made by individuals, PACs, or other persons during an election cycle;

(iv) The effectiveness of current disclosure requirements in Maryland and in other states in providing detailed and accessible information to the public regarding expenditures by candidates, candidate slates, campaign committees, and political action committees; and

(v) The role and prevalence of “issue ads” and other independent expenditures under the current Maryland campaign finance laws;

(6) Receive testimony, as the Commission considers appropriate; and

(7) On or before December 31, 2001, report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes to the Maryland campaign finance laws, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly for consideration by the General Assembly in the 2002 Session.

(f) The Commission shall terminate its existence after June 30, 2002.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 2 through 10, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 10 on page 2 through line 24 on page 10, inclusive.

On page 10, in line 25, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; and in line 26, strike “October” and substitute “July”.