
By: **Delegates Getty and Brinkley**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Contributions - Credit Cards**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain limitation on the amount of contributions that
4 may be made by credit card to candidates and political committees; and
5 generally relating to campaign contributions.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article 33 - Election Code
8 Section 13-212
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

13 **Article 33 - Election Code**

14 13-212.

15 (a) (1) Except as provided in §§ 13-213 and 13-214 of this subtitle, it is
16 unlawful for any individual, association, unincorporated association, corporation, or
17 any other entity either directly or indirectly, to contribute any money or thing of value
18 greater than \$4,000 to any candidate or political committee or to contribute money in
19 excess of \$100 except by check OR BY CREDIT CARD in any 4-year election cycle.
20 [Contributions may be made by credit card, not to exceed \$100 per transaction, to any
21 candidate or political committee under this subsection.] Total contributions by a
22 contributor under this subsection shall not exceed \$10,000 in any 4-year election
23 cycle.

24 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the limit on
25 contributions during a 4-year election cycle by the governing body for a political party
26 or local central committee shall be as follows:

1 (i) For a statewide governing body for a political party, not more
2 than \$1 for every two registered voters in the State, regardless of party affiliation, as
3 of January 1 following the preceding gubernatorial election; and

4 (ii) For the governing body of a local central committee for a
5 political party, not more than \$1 for every two registered voters in the county,
6 regardless of party affiliation, as of January 1 following the preceding gubernatorial
7 election.

8 (3) (i) The limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and
9 § 13-213 of this subtitle shall apply to each 4-year election cycle beginning on
10 January 1 following the gubernatorial election and continuing until December 31 that
11 is 4 years later.

12 (ii) Without regard to when a contribution or transfer is expended
13 or used, the contribution or transfer shall be charged against the limitation for the
14 election cycle in which:

- 15 1. The check is written or dated; or
16 2. The cash or other thing of value is received.

17 (b) Except as otherwise provided by law, an individual, association,
18 unincorporated association, corporation, or other entity may make contributions in
19 accordance with the limitations on contributions set forth in this section, provided
20 that, for the purpose of determining the maximum amount that a corporation may
21 contribute, a contribution by a corporation and any wholly owned subsidiary of the
22 corporation or 2 or more corporations owned by the same stockholders shall be
23 considered as being made by 1 contributor.

24 (c) It is unlawful for any association, unincorporated association, corporation,
25 or any other entity that derives the majority of its operating funds from State funding
26 to contribute any money or thing of value to any candidate or political committee
27 during a 4-year election cycle.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
29 effect October 1, 2001.