

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 144 (Delegate Hurson)
Commerce and Government Matters

Ethics Law - Lobbyist Registration for Political Committee Activity

This bill requires an entity to register as a lobbyist if the entity: (1) has expenses of \$500 or more, including personal travel and subsistence expenses, for the purpose of influencing any legislative or executive action; and (2) serves on a political committee, other than for a candidate or slate of candidates, that makes contributions or transfers a total of \$10,000 or more to officials or candidates, or political committees for officials or candidates, for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or member of the General Assembly. Contributions or transfers for determining registration as a lobbyist are those made within the election cycle in which the expenses were incurred or the previous election cycle.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund revenues and general fund expenditures beginning in FY 2002.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no requirement for an entity serving on a political committee with expenses of \$500 or more to register as a lobbyist. There is a requirement that any entity spending at least \$500 on compensation to one or more entities required to register as lobbyists must also register as a lobbyist.

State Fiscal Effect: According to the State Ethics Commission very few entities (less than 12) will be required to register as lobbyists as a result of the bill's provisions. Each new lobbyist registration would increase special fund revenues by the annual \$20 registration fee. The State Ethics Commission would also incur expenses of less than \$1,000 a year to inform political action committees of the new registration requirement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 29, 2001
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