

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 36 (Senator Forehand)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Campaign Finance Reports - Expenditures - Receipts Required

This bill requires that all expenditures made from a campaign account be supported by a receipt that is retained by the treasurer or subtreasurer of the campaign entity. The bill also permits a candidate, campaign treasurer or subtreasurer, or some other authorized person to pay a campaign expense of the candidate with funds other than from a candidate's campaign account. This is permitted so long as: (1) the expense is supported by a receipt retained by the campaign treasurer or subtreasurer; (2) the person who paid the expense is reimbursed by check from the campaign account; and (3) the nature of the expense and amount of the reimbursement is reported in accordance with State law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional monitoring of campaign finance reports could be supported with the existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: Any additional monitoring of campaign finance reports could be supported with the existing resources of the local boards of elections.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Campaign treasurers and subtreasurers are required to keep detailed "account books" describing every transaction made from and to a campaign account, but no receipt is required. Except for expenditures made from a petty cash fund, all expenses

incurred on behalf of a candidate must be paid by check from a designated campaign depository.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, SB 678, was introduced in the 2000 session. It 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 – January 29, 2001
ef/jr

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