

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1248 (Delegate Hurson, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Election Laws - Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in
Maryland**

This bill establishes a 19-member Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland. The commission is required to: (1) examine public funding of State legislative campaigns; (2) identify the changes in the State election code necessary for public funding of State campaigns; (3) consider issues related to public financing of campaigns such as the role of political action committees, current contribution and transfer limits, disclosure requirements, and issue advertisements; (4) receive testimony where appropriate; and (5) propose recommendations for a public campaign financing system in Maryland.

The Department of Legislative Services and the State Board of Elections are required to provide staffing for the commission. The commission is required to report its findings, recommendations, and any proposed statutory changes to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2001. The commission terminates June 30, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any staffing requirements could be handled within the existing resources of the Department of Legislative Services and the State board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is a Public Financing Act applicable to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. No such act or fund applies to candidates for the General Assembly offices.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, SB 707 was introduced in the 2000 session. It received an unfavorable report from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. In the 1999 session, a similar bill, HB 809, was introduced and received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 23, 2001
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