

HOUSE BILL 681

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HB 1255/01 - CGM

2002 Regular Session  
2lr0880

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By: **Delegates Getty, Brinkley, Parrott, Shank, Riley, Snodgrass, Benson,  
Malone, Mitchell, Sophocleus, Paige, Bobo, Dypski, Mandel, Clagett,  
Glassman, DeCarlo, Wood, Swain, Bronrott, and McIntosh**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2002  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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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; providing for  
5 the termination of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the effective date  
6 for certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to campaign  
7 contributions.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 13-212(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Election Law  
15 Section 13-226  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

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

20 **Article 33 - Election Code**

21 13-212.

22 (a) (1) Except as provided in §§ 13-213 and 13-214 of this subtitle, it is  
23 unlawful for any individual, association, unincorporated association, corporation, or  
24 any other entity either directly or indirectly, to contribute any money or thing of value  
25 greater than \$4,000 to any candidate or political committee or to contribute money in  
26 excess of \$100 except by check OR BY CREDIT CARD in any 4-year election cycle.

1 [Contributions may be made by credit card, not to exceed \$100 per transaction, to any  
2 candidate or political committee under this subsection.] Total contributions by a  
3 contributor under this subsection shall not exceed \$10,000 in any 4-year election  
4 cycle.

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

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

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

15 (3) (i) The limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and  
16 § 13-213 of this subtitle shall apply to each 4-year election cycle beginning on  
17 January 1 following the gubernatorial election and continuing until December 31 that  
18 is 4 years later.

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

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

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
25 read as follows:

26 **Article - Election Law**

27 13-226.

28 (a) The limits on contributions in this section do not apply to:

- 29 (1) a contribution to a ballot issue committee; or
- 30 (2) those contributions defined as transfers.

31 (b) Subject to [subsection (d)] SUBSECTION (C) of this section, a person may  
32 not, either directly or indirectly, in an election cycle make:

- 33 (1) aggregate contributions in excess of:
  - 34 (i) \$4,000 to any one campaign finance entity; or

1 (ii) \$10,000 to all campaign finance entities; or

2 (2) a contribution of money in excess of \$100 except by check OR BY  
3 CREDIT CARD.

4 (c) [A person may not make a contribution by credit card greater than \$100  
5 per transaction.

6 (d)] (1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a central committee of  
7 a political party may make aggregate in-kind contributions during an election cycle  
8 that are not in excess of:

9 (i) for a State central committee, \$1 for every two registered voters  
10 in the State; and

11 (ii) for a local central committee, \$1 for every two registered voters  
12 in the county.

13 (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the number of  
14 registered voters is determined, regardless of party affiliation, as of the first day of  
15 the election cycle.

16 [(e)] (D) The limit on contributions to the campaign finance entity of a  
17 candidate applies regardless of the number of offices sought by the candidate or  
18 campaign finance entities formed to support the candidate.

19 [(f)] (E) Contributions by a corporation and any wholly-owned subsidiary of  
20 the corporation, or by two or more corporations owned by the same stockholders, shall  
21 be considered as being made by one contributor.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall  
23 take effect October 1, 2002. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of Section  
24 2 of this Act. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be  
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

26 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions  
27 of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002.