

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 445 (Senator Roesser, *et al.*)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Campaign Finance Law - State Officeholders - Reporting Requirement
 Following Convening of the Legislative Session**

This bill adds an additional campaign finance statement to the reports required of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and a member of the General Assembly and any of their campaign fund-raising entities. The additional statement must be filed by the third Monday following the beginning of the regular General Assembly session if more than a total of \$5,000 was received since the last report. Reports will cover the time period from the most recent prior report up to the beginning of the General Assembly session and must be filed electronically in a format specified by the State Board of Elections. The bill's requirements are effective with the commencement of the General Assembly session that begins January 8, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: A one-time cost of approximately \$100,000 would be required for the software vendor employed by the State Board of Elections to modify the existing campaign finance reporting software to accommodate this additional report type. Beginning in FY 2003, board expenses for postage on reminder notices to officeholders would increase by \$1,000 annually.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	100,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Net Effect	(\$100,000)	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Any additional maintenance of campaign financing statements by the local boards of elections could be supported with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Most years, four campaign finance reports are required from State officeholders who have continuing campaign accounts. The reports are due four Tuesdays before a primary election, two Fridays before a primary election, two Fridays before the general election, and three Tuesdays after the general election. Once every four years, when no elections take place, officeholders are required to submit only one report. At the end of every four-year election cycle, following the Maryland State elections, officeholders are also required to submit an end-of-the-cycle report that encompasses the time from the last report until the end of the calendar year.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and members of the General Assembly are not permitted to engage in fund-raising activities during the General Assembly session.

State Fiscal Effect: According to the State Board of Elections and the software vendor it employs to maintain the campaign finance reporting system, six months of work, at a total cost of approximately \$100,000, would be required to reprogram the reporting software to create this new report. This report is unique from existing campaign finance reports since it only requires a report of contributions and transfers. The projected cost also includes modifications to the agency's campaign account management system and website display. The State Board of Elections also projects a \$1,000 annual increase in administrative costs, beginning in fiscal 2003, to send out reminder notices to the officeholders.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 394 (an identical bill) passed the House in the 2001 session, but was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. A similar bill, HB 621, was introduced in the 2000 session. The bill passed the House but was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: HB 383 (Delegate Glassman, *et al.*) – Commerce and Government Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2002
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510