

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 660
Ways and Means

(Delegate Bobo, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Campaign Finance - Attribution of Contributions

This bill attributes campaign contributions from two or more of the following entities as a single contribution if: (1) one of the business entities is a wholly-owned subsidiary of one of the other business entities; or (2) the business entities are owned or controlled by the same individuals. The bill defines “business entity” as a corporation, general or limited partnership, limited liability company, or real estate investment trust.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not directly affect State governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Title 13 of the Election Code limits aggregate contributions within a four-year election cycle to: (1) \$4,000 to any one campaign finance entity; or (2) \$10,000 to all campaign finance entities. Contributions by a corporation and any wholly-owned subsidiary of the corporation, or by two or more corporations owned by the same stockholders, are considered as being made by one donor.

Background: The bill applies existing attribution roles for corporations to other business entities that have the same ownership.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 132 (Senator Frosh, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2003
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