

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 259 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*)  
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Election Law - Contribution Reports - Contributor Information**

This bill requires that a campaign report submitted to the State Election Board include the full name, mailing address, employer, and occupation of the contributor where the cumulative contribution amount is greater than \$251 in a four-year election cycle. Candidates, political committee chairmen, and treasurers are required to use their best efforts to obtain this information from contributors by clearly requesting the required information and timely reporting all requested information received.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** \$12,000 general fund expenditure increase in FY 2004 only for retooling and distribution of software to accommodate adjusted reporting requirements. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	12,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$12,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Campaign reports filed under the State Election Code do not require contributor identity information. The language of this bill, however, is similar to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1976, which requires political committees to file periodic reports containing contributor identifying information. This Act does not apply to State elections.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** Similar bills, SB 339 and its cross file HB 912, were introduced in the 2002 session. SB 339 was not reported from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and HB 912 received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** HB 666 (Delegate Bobo, *et al.*) – Way and Means.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2003  
mam/jr

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Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510