

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 170  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Glassman)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Campaign Expenditures - Payment by Check Card or Debit Card**

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This bill authorizes a campaign finance entity to make a disbursement using a check card or debit card that has been issued to the entity.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Statute prohibits a campaign finance entity from directly or indirectly making a disbursement except by a check from a designated campaign account. A campaign finance entity or individual authorized by the entity may pay an expense of the entity from funds other than the campaign account if: (1) the expense is supported by a receipt provided to the campaign finance entity; and (2) the campaign finance entity reimburses the person who paid the expense by check from the campaign account and reports the expense as an expenditure of the campaign.

**Background:** The bill is in response to the increasing number of vendors that no longer accept paper checks for payment. Currently, check card or debit card expenditures are made by a campaign through the check card or debit card of individuals, who are then reimbursed by check from the campaign account.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 476 of 2003, an identical bill, was passed by the House, but was unfavorably reported by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2004  
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