

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 931  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Bobo, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Election Law - Campaign Finance - Attribution of Contributions**

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This bill attributes campaign contributions from two or more of the following business 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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This 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 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 related business entities that have unitary ownership.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** An identical bill was introduced at the 2003 session as HB 660. The bill received a favorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee and was passed by the House. It was unfavorably reported from 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 9, 2004  
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