

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 227
Ways and Means

(Delegate Mitchell)

Election Law - Fund-Raising before and after the Legislative Session

This bill prohibits fund-raising by a member of the General Assembly, or a person acting on behalf of a member, outside the member's legislative district or subdistrict. The prohibition is in effect from December 31 through the first day of the next following regular legislative session and from the end of the regular legislative session through May 1. An exemption is made for a presiding officer of the General Assembly, who may conduct a single fund-raising event outside the presiding officer's legislative district during the periods of the prohibition.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and members of the General Assembly, as well as persons acting on behalf of these officeholders, may not engage in fund-raising activities during a regular session of the General Assembly. The fund-raising activities expressly prohibited by current law are: (1) receiving campaign contributions; (2) conducting a fund-raising event to receive a campaign contribution; (3) soliciting or selling tickets to a fund-raising event; and (4)

depositing, or otherwise using a contribution collected before the session began. Officeholders are subject to the same penalties that the bill provides for candidates.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced in the 2003 session as HB 282. The bill received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2004
mh/hlb

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