

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 168
Ways and Means

(Delegate Glassman)

Election Law - Slates - Transfers - Limitations

This bill limits the dollar amount of cumulative transfers between a slate and the campaign finance entities of its members to \$10,000 during a four-year election cycle. The limitation may be exceeded whenever a slate is terminated and the campaign account of the slate closed.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Members of a slate, state, and local central committees of the same political party, and the campaign finance entities of a candidate are exempt from the \$6,000 cumulative limit on any direct or indirect transfers to another campaign finance entity during a four-year election period.

Background: Slate committees spent \$4,288,000 accounting for nearly 15% of total expenditures during the 2002 statewide elections according to a report by the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland College Park titled *Campaign Spending by Maryland General Assembly Candidates in the 2002 Elections*.

Slate committees may make unlimited transfers to the campaign accounts of its members and are often formed by candidates in multimember districts to pay for mailings and other joint campaign committees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 663 of 2003 would have limited cumulative transfers to \$7,500. The bill was unfavorably reported by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2004
ncs/mdr

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