

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 122 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Elections, State Board of)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Election Law - Campaign Finance Report Requirements - Ballot Issue  
Committees**

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This emergency departmental bill requires a ballot issue committee to file a campaign finance report both before and after a general election.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill corrects a drafting error and codifies current administrative practice.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The State Board of Elections has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A ballot issue committee must file a campaign finance report on or before the third Tuesday after a general election, but is exempt from filing before primary and general elections as required of other campaign finance entities.

**Background:** A ballot issue committee is a political committee formed to promote the success or defeat of a question to be submitted to a vote at an election. It has been the practice of the State Board of Elections to exempt ballot issue committees from filing a campaign finance report before a primary election since ballot issues are not on primary

election ballots. When codifying the administrative practice of the State Board of Elections during code revision in 2002, the law was amended to reflect that practice. However, the Election Law Code Revision Committee inadvertently exempted ballot issue committees from filing a report before a general election.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2006  
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