

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1674

(Delegate F. Turner, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

University System of Maryland - Restrictions on Campaign Fund-Raising
Activities by Members of the Board of Regents

This bill prohibits a member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland from engaging in specified fund-raising activity and from being a candidate for a public office while serving on the board.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A member of the Board of Regents may not, for the benefit of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or member of the General Assembly, or a candidate for those offices: • solicit or transmit a political contribution from any person, including a political committee; • serve on a fund-raising committee or political committee; • act as a treasurer for a candidate or official, or treasurer or chair of a political committee; • organize or establish a political committee for the purpose of soliciting or transmitting contributions; or • forward tickets for fund-raising activities, or other solicitations for contributions, to a political contributor.

These restrictions apply from the date of a member's appointment until the end of the member's tenure on the board.

A member is not prohibited from making a personal political contribution, informing any entity of a position taken by a candidate or official, or engaging in other activities not specifically prohibited by the bill.

A member may not be a candidate for a public office while serving on the board.

"Candidate," "contribution," and "political committee" are as defined in the Election Law Article.

Current Law: The Board of Regents is responsible for governing the University System of Maryland. The board consists of 17 members made up of one student, the Secretary of Agriculture *ex officio*, and members of the general public (required to be residents of the State). Except for the Secretary of Agriculture, members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and serve five-year terms, with the exception of the student member who is appointed to a one-year term.

A "candidate" is defined under the Election Law Article as an individual who files a certificate of candidacy for a public or party office. A "contribution" is a gift or transfer, or promise of gift or transfer, of money or other thing of value to a campaign finance entity to promote or assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or question. A "political committee" is a combination of two or more individuals that assists or attempts to assist in promoting the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or question submitted to a vote at any election.

Background: The Board of Regents' "Policy on Public Ethics of Members of the Board of Regents" adopted in 1999, in compliance with Chapter 515 of 1999, provides that a member of the board may not, for compensation, assist or represent any party in any matter before the General Assembly, with the exception that the policy does not prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from carrying out any responsibility of that position.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2006
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2006

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510