

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 560
Ways and Means

(Delegates McIntosh and Hixson)

Election Law - Campaign Contributions - Limits on Contributions

This bill expands limits on aggregate contributions to campaign finance entities. It allows a person to make contributions of up to \$10,000 in total to all campaign finance entities for public offices entirely in one county, other than State Senator or Member of the House of Delegates, and up to \$10,000 in total to all other campaign finance entities during an election cycle. The aggregate contribution limit of \$4,000 to any *one* campaign finance entity is not changed by the bill.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a person may not, either directly or indirectly, make aggregate contributions of more than \$4,000 to any one campaign finance entity and \$10,000 to all campaign finance entities during an election cycle. Contribution limits do not apply to ballot issue committees. An election cycle is the period between January 1 following a gubernatorial election and December 31, four years later.

Background: The existing contribution limits were enacted by Chapter 617 of 1991. Prior to that, State law specified that a person could contribute up to \$1,000 to a single candidate in any primary, general, or special election and up to \$2,500 in aggregate contributions to all recipients in any primary or general election.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2007
nas/jr

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