

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1042

(Delegate Vallario, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Campaign Finance - Period Reporting Requirements

This bill allows a candidate's authorized political committee to file an affidavit, instead of a campaign finance report, for any of the campaign finance reporting periods prior to and just after a primary and general election stating that the campaign finance entity did not raise contributions or make expenditures of \$1,000 or more during the period.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any programming changes to the State Board of Elections' (SBE) election management system could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An affidavit remains in effect for subsequent reporting periods; however, if the entity later receives contributions or makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more in a reporting period, a campaign finance report must be filed for that period. A campaign finance entity remains subject to the requirement that a campaign finance report be filed in January of each year, regardless of whether affidavits have been filed for previous reporting periods.

Current Law: For each election that a campaign finance entity has indicated it will participate in on its statement of purpose filed with SBE, the campaign finance entity must file campaign finance reports at various times prior to and after the primary and general elections. The reports must contain information required by SBE with respect to all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the campaign finance entity during a reporting period. In addition to campaign finance reports required to be filed prior to and after primary and general elections, campaign finance entities must file a campaign finance report on the third Wednesday in January of each year.

The responsible officers of a candidate's authorized political committee may file an affidavit on or before the day when the first campaign finance report is due stating that the campaign finance entity does not intend to raise contributions or make expenditures of \$1,000 or more. If a campaign finance entity subsequently does receive contributions or make expenditures of \$1,000 or more, all subsequent campaign finance reports must be filed.

A campaign finance entity with no cash balance or outstanding obligations at the end of a reporting period may mark a campaign finance report as "final" and not be obligated to file any further reports.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2007
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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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