

HOUSE BILL 138

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8lr1523

By: **Delegates Kaiser, Ali, Barkley, Bobo, Feldman, Frush, Gutierrez, Hecht, Howard, Hubbard, Hucker, Ivey, Jennings, Jones, Kach, Lafferty, Lee, Manno, Montgomery, Morhaim, Olszewski, Rice, Ross, Stukes, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2008

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Ballot Issue Committee – Additional Campaign Finance**
3 **Report of Contributions Required**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a ballot issue committee to file a campaign finance
5 report of its contributions on or before a certain date preceding a general
6 election; and generally relating to the filing of an additional campaign finance
7 report of its contributions by a ballot issue committee.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 13–309
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 13–309.

17 (a) Subject to other provisions of this subtitle, a campaign finance entity
18 shall file campaign finance reports as follows:

19 (1) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the fourth Tuesday
20 immediately preceding each primary election except a presidential primary election;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the second Friday
2 immediately preceding a primary election;

3 **(3) FOR A BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE ONLY, ON OR BEFORE THE**
4 **FOURTH FRIDAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A GENERAL ELECTION;**

5 [(3)] (4) on or before the second Friday immediately preceding a
6 general election; and

7 [(4)] (5) on or before the third Tuesday after a general election.

8 (b) (1) A campaign finance entity is subject to subsection (a) of this
9 section and this subsection only as to the election in which the entity designates that it
10 will participate.

11 (2) In addition to the campaign finance reports required under
12 subsection (a) of this section, but subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a
13 campaign finance entity shall file campaign finance reports on the third Wednesday in
14 January.

15 (3) (i) If subsequent to the filing of its declaration under §
16 13-208(c)(3) of this title, a campaign finance entity participates in an election in which
17 it was not designated to participate, the campaign finance entity shall file all
18 campaign reports prescribed under subsection (a) of this section for that election.

19 (ii) A violation of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph constitutes
20 a failure to file by the campaign finance entity, and the responsible officer is guilty of a
21 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to the penalties prescribed under Part VII of
22 this subtitle.

23 (4) If a campaign finance entity has neither a cash balance nor an
24 outstanding obligation at the end of a reporting period, a campaign finance report for
25 that period, clearly marked as “final”, shall be filed on or before the due date, and no
26 further report is required.

27 (c) In addition to the campaign reports required under subsection (a) of this
28 section, a continuing political committee shall file a campaign finance report on the
29 third Wednesday in January of each year the committee is in existence.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 July 1, 2008.