

SB0663/923024/1

BY: Senator Muse

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 663, AS AMENDED
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On pages 1 through 3 of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Amendments (SB0663/744134/1), strike Amendment No. 1 in its entirety.

On pages 1 and 2 of the bill, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 2 on page 1 through line 18 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“Election Law – Study Commission on Public Funding of General Assembly
Campaigns

FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Commission on Public Funding of General Assembly Campaigns; specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Commission; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving certain compensation; providing for the staffing of the Commission; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislative changes, to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Study Commission on Public Funding of General Assembly Campaigns.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 through 37 of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Amendments, strike Amendment No. 2 in its entirety.

On pages 2 through 26 of the bill, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 2 through line 18 on page 26, inclusive, and substitute:

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“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Study Commission on Public Funding of General Assembly Campaigns.

(b) The Commission shall consist of the following 15 members:

(1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) Three members of the House of Delegates, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(3) Seven individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

(i) A member of the State Board of Elections;

(ii) A member of the State Ethics Commission;

(iii) A member of a statewide organization concerned with campaign finance practices, fair elections, and ethics in government; and

(iv) Four additional individuals; and

(4) (i) One member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(ii) One member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader of the House.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) A member of the Commission:

(1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement of expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(d) The State Board of Elections and the State Ethics Commission shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) The Commission shall:

(1) Collect information relating to the practice of public funding of election campaigns in other jurisdictions in the United States;

(2) Analyze current practices in Maryland relating to campaign contributions, funding, and activities, including:

(i) The nature and extent of campaign contributions for elections in Maryland by donors, including individuals, corporations, political committees, unions, and other persons or entities, and the characteristics of such donors;

(ii) The changes or trends in the total amount of contributions to candidates for elections in Maryland over the past several decades and the nature of such changes or trends, including but not limited to changes in the contribution patterns of any of the donors listed in item (i) of this item;

(iii) The effectiveness of current Maryland election laws in maintaining confidence in the fairness and openness of elections, in preserving the

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democratic process, and in preventing undue influence or the appearance of undue influence by particular donors; and

(iv) The effect that the increasing need to raise substantial campaign contributions has on the ability of elected officials to perform their duties effectively and to serve the interests of all of their constituents equitably;

(3) Receive testimony as the Commission considers appropriate;

(4) Consider the effects of public funding of election campaigns and, if appropriate, make recommendations for implementing a system of public funding of General Assembly campaigns in Maryland;

(5) Examine the State election code as it relates to changes needed to implement public funding of General Assembly campaigns; and

(6) On or before January 1, 2011, report its finding and recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes to the Maryland election laws, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly for consideration by the General Assembly in the 2011 Session.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.