HOUSE BILL 980

G1 9lr1867

By: **Delegates Ali, Barve, Ivey, Olszewski, Rice, Boteler, Bronrott, Carr, Glenn, McComas, Robinson, Shank, and Valderrama**
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2009
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Web–Based Campaign Finance Reporting Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that campaign finance reports be filed with the State
4   Board of Elections using a secure Internet website maintained by the State
5   Board; requiring the State Board to control access to the website through
6   certain protocols to guard against the disclosure of certain nonpublic
7   information filed by a campaign finance entity; authorizing the State Board to
8   exempt certain campaign finance entities from using the secure Internet
9   website to file campaign finance reports; requiring the State Board to maintain
10   and provide the public access to certain campaign finance reports that are filed
11   using the board's secure Internet website; requiring the State Board to develop
12   specifications for submitting campaign finance reports using the board's secure
13   Internet website; repealing provisions relating to the filing of certain campaign
14   finance reports using a certain electronic storage medium; repealing provisions
15   that required the State Board to supply certain persons with certain software
16   and disks or other media on which to file campaign finance reports; and
17   generally relating to the Web–Based Campaign Finance Reporting Act.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19   Article – Election Law
20   Section 13–324
21   Annotated Code of Maryland
22   (2003 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

26 13–324.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW**.
  [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   (a)   (1)   **(I)**   Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,
2   campaign finance reports required to be filed with the State Board shall be submitted
3   using [an electronic storage medium] **A SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE MAINTAINED**
4   **BY THE STATE BOARD**, and in a format, that the State Board approves.

5   **(II)   THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONTROL ACCESS TO THE**
6   **WEBSITE THROUGH THE USE OF LOGIN NAMES AND PASSWORD PROTECTIONS**
7   **TO GUARD AGAINST THE DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC, SENSITIVE INFORMATION**
8   **INCLUDED BY A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY IN ITS CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
9   **REPORT.**

10   (2)   The State Board may exempt a campaign finance entity with de
11   minimis financial activity from the requirement to submit campaign finance reports
12   using [an electronic medium] **THE SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE**.

13   [(b)   On request the State Board shall supply to a person who is required to
14   file campaign finance reports using an electronic medium the computer software and
15   the disks or other media on which the required information is to be entered.]

16   [(c)] **(B)**   Campaign finance reports received by the State Board [in an
17   electronic storage format] **THROUGH THE SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE** shall be
18   maintained in accordance with § 13–341 of this subtitle.

19   [(d)] **(C)**   The State Board shall make the campaign finance reports that are
20   maintained [in an electronic storage format] **ON THE SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE**
21   under subsection [(c)] **(B)** of this section widely and easily accessible to the public:

22   (1)   using   any   existing   public   or   private   systems   for   data
23   dissemination; **AND**

24   (2)   on terms that the State Board determines are consistent with the
25   purposes and requirements of this article[; and

26   (3)   by making any computer disk submitted by a person available for
27   duplication].

28   [(e)] **(D)**   The State Board may refuse to accept or process a campaign
29   finance report that is not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this
30   section.

31   [(f)] **(E)**   The State Board shall:

32   (1)   develop specifications for submitting campaign finance reports
33   using [an electronic medium] **THE STATE BOARD'S SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE**;
34   and

1   (2)   adopt regulations to implement this section.

2   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2009.