

SENATE BILL 846

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9lr2052

By: **Senator Harris**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Public Financing Act – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the dollar amount limit in the definition of eligible private
4 contribution under the Public Financing Act; altering the amount of money a
5 gubernatorial ticket may spend in an election if the ticket accepts a public
6 contribution from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund; and generally relating to
7 the Public Financing Act.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 15–102(d) and 15–105
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume and 2008 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 15–102.

17 (d) “Eligible private contribution” means that part of a monetary or in-kind
18 contribution or series of contributions from an individual that does not exceed [\$250]
19 **\$500**.

20 15–105.

21 (a) (1) A gubernatorial ticket that accepts a public contribution from the
22 Fund for an election may not spend, in that election, more than the product of [30
23 cents] **\$1**, adjusted annually beginning January 1, [1997] **2010**, in accordance with

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the Consumer Price Index, times the population of the State as determined under
2 subsection (c) of this section.

3 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection:

4 (i) applies separately to each primary and general election; and

5 (ii) does not apply to expenditures made on behalf of a
6 gubernatorial ticket by a State or local central committee.

7 (b) The State Board shall certify the expenditure limit for each election in
8 accordance with subsection (a)(1) of this section.

9 (c) The population of the State shall be determined by the State Board as of
10 January 1 of the year of the election in accordance with the more recent of:

11 (1) the most recent decennial census of the United States; or

12 (2) any population estimate prepared for the State by the Department
13 of Health and Mental Hygiene.

14 (d) The members of the gubernatorial ticket and, if associated with the
15 expenditure, the responsible officers of its campaign finance entity are jointly and
16 severally liable civilly and criminally for an expenditure made in violation of this
17 section.

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