

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 413  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Election Law - Ballot Issue Committee - Additional Campaign Finance Report

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This bill requires a ballot issue committee to file an additional campaign finance report prior to a general election, on or before the fourth Friday preceding the election.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Programming changes to electronic filing and agency software can be handled with existing budgeted resources of the State Board of Elections (SBE).

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** 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 generally 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. Annual reports generally must also be filed on the third Wednesday in January. 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.

Campaign finance entities other than ballot issue committees must file, on specified days, two reports prior to a primary election and all campaign finance entities (including ballot issue committees) must file, on specified days, one report before a general election, and one after the general election.

Chapter 40 of 2006 amended State law (codifying a longstanding policy of SBE) to require ballot issue committees to file campaign finance reports both before and after a general election. Prior to that enactment, State law only required ballot issue committees to file a report after a general election.

A campaign finance entity that has not raised or spent a cumulative amount of \$1,000 or more since the establishment of the campaign finance entity, or since the filing of its last campaign finance report, may file an affidavit stating as much in place of a report.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB0138 LR1523 2008 W&M

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2009  
ncs/hlb

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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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