

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1313  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Cardin)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Campaign Fundraising - Raffle Tickets and Cash Contributions - Limits**

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This bill increases, from \$5 to \$10, a limit on the cost of a raffle ticket for a political fundraiser conducted by a political committee or candidate for public office, and increases, from \$50 to \$100, the amount of raffle tickets an individual may purchase at a political fundraiser. The bill also increases, from \$100 to \$200, the total amount of cash contributions a person may make in an election cycle.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's changes can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A political committee or candidate for public office may conduct a raffle if the prizes awarded are money or merchandise. The cost of a raffle ticket may not be more than \$5 and an individual may not purchase more than \$50 worth of tickets. In conducting such a raffle, a political committee or candidate is not relieved from the reporting and recordkeeping requirements under the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code.

A person generally may not make, directly or indirectly, aggregate contributions of more than \$4,000 to any one campaign finance entity or \$10,000 to all campaign finance entities, or a cash contribution in excess of \$100, in a four-year election cycle.

An individual may not file a certificate of candidacy until the individual establishes, or causes to be established, an authorized political committee. A treasurer of a campaign finance entity (political committee) must keep a detailed and accurate account book of all assets received, expenditures made, and obligations incurred by or on behalf of the entity.

For each election that a campaign finance entity has indicated it will participate in on its statement of purpose filed with the State Board of Elections (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.

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:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2009  
mlm/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 7, 2009

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