

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 805

(Delegate Heller)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Campaign Account - Debit Card Disbursements

This bill allows a treasurer of a campaign finance entity to make a disbursement by debit card from a designated campaign account.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any cost to change campaign finance report electronic filing software is minimal and can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A campaign finance entity generally may not directly or indirectly make a disbursement except by check from a designated campaign account. However, a campaign finance entity or individual authorized by the entity may pay an expense of the entity from funds other than the campaign account if (1) the expense is supported by a receipt provided to the campaign finance entity; and (2) the campaign finance entity reimburses the person who paid the expense by check from the campaign account and reports the expense as an expenditure of the campaign.

Background: An increasing number of vendors no longer accept paper checks for payment. Currently, check card, credit card, or debit card expenditures are made for a campaign by individuals, who are then reimbursed by check from the campaign account.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 544 of 2008 and HB 1380 of 2007 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken on either bill. HB 357 of 2005, HB 170 of 2004, and HB 476 of 2003 all passed the House, but received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. HB 141 of 2005 received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 457 of 2005 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but was subsequently withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2009
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2009

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