

Department of Legislative Services
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 806

(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.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minor alterations to electronic campaign finance report filing software 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 finance entity.

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 805 of 2009, HB 544 of 2008, and HB 1380 of 2007 each passed in the House and received hearings in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken on the bills. In addition, similar bills were introduced in the 2003 through 2005 sessions.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2010
mpc/mwc

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