

Chapter 339

(House Bill 1285)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Campaign Finance – Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the chairman and treasurer of a campaign finance entity to provide electronic mail addresses of the chairman and treasurer to the State Board of Elections and notify the State Board of a change in the electronic mail addresses by a certain date if the chairman and treasurer consent to receiving certain notice only by electronic mail; requiring the chairman and treasurer of a campaign finance entity to notify the State Board of a change in the residence address of the chairman and treasurer by a certain date; altering the time when the treasurer of a campaign finance entity is required to issue a campaign contribution receipt; authorizing the responsible officers of a campaign finance entity to affirmatively consent to receiving notice of campaign finance reports only by electronic mail; repealing obsolete provisions; and generally relating to requirements of campaign finance law.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 13–207, 13–222, and 13–321
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Election Law

13–207.

- (a) This section applies to a political committee other than a political club.
- (b) A political committee may not receive or disburse money or any other thing of value unless the political committee is established in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- (c) To establish a political committee:
 - (1) a chairman and a treasurer shall be appointed on a form that the State Board prescribes and that is signed by the chairman and treasurer and includes:

(i) the residence addresses of the chairman and the treasurer;
[and]

(II) IF THE CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER AFFIRMATIVELY CONSENT TO RECEIVING NOTICE UNDER THIS TITLE ONLY BY ELECTRONIC MAIL, THE ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN AND THE TREASURER; AND

[(ii)] (III) the information required by § 13–208 of this subtitle;
and

(2) the form shall be filed with the board where the political committee is required to file campaign finance reports.

(3) THE CHAIRMAN OR TREASURER OF A POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY THE STATE BOARD OF A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OR TREASURER NO LATER THAN 21 DAYS BEFORE THE DAY ON WHICH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE’S NEXT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT IS DUE UNDER § 13–309 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) THE CHAIRMAN OR TREASURER OF A POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY THE STATE BOARD OF A CHANGE IN THE ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OR TREASURER BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAVE AFFIRMATIVELY CONSENTED TO RECEIVING NOTICE UNDER THIS TITLE ONLY BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.

(d) (1) A chairman or treasurer of a political committee may resign by completing a resignation form that the State Board prescribes and filing the form with the board where the political committee was established.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairman or the office of treasurer, the political committee promptly shall appoint a new chairman or treasurer in accordance with this section.

13–222.

(a) (1) [On] ~~WITHIN 60 DAYS OF~~ **BY THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR FILING A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT AFTER** receiving [and before depositing] a contribution specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a treasurer [or subtreasurer] shall issue a campaign contribution receipt on the form that the State Board prescribes.

(2) A campaign contribution receipt shall be mailed or delivered to each person who:

(i) makes one or more contributions, other than the purchase of tickets for a campaign event, in the cumulative amount of \$51 or more; or

(ii) purchases one or more tickets for a campaign event:

1. at a cost of \$51 or more per ticket; or

2. in the cumulative amount of \$251 or more.

(3) At the request of a contributor, a treasurer [or subtreasurer] shall issue a campaign contribution receipt for any other contribution.

(4) A campaign contribution receipt issued under this section is evidence of the contribution.

(b) The information from a campaign contribution receipt shall be included in the campaign finance report filed by the treasurer [or subtreasurer] under this title.

13–321.

(a) (1) In accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, the State Board shall notify each campaign finance entity that is required under this subtitle to file campaign finance reports of each campaign finance report required to be filed by that entity.

(2) The notice shall be provided [by first class mail]:

(I) at least 10 but not more than 20 days before the filing date for each campaign finance report; AND

(II) **BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL, UNLESS THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS OF A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY AFFIRMATIVELY CONSENT TO RECEIVING THE NOTICE ONLY BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.**

(b) The notice required under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) the filing date;

(2) the telephone number, business hours, and location of the State Board; and

(3) the penalty for failure to file a timely campaign finance report.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.