

HOUSE BILL 695

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By: **Delegate Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Elections – Campaign Finance Reporting Database – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections to study and make
4 recommendations regarding certain requirements that need to be met to implement
5 a system that provides the public with real-time access to certain campaign finance
6 information; requiring the State Board to research certain options and make certain
7 recommendations; authorizing the State Board to work in coordination with the
8 Maryland Bankers Association in conducting the study; requiring the State Board to
9 submit its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General
10 Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study on the
11 implementation of a campaign finance reporting database.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That:

14 (a) The State Board of Elections shall study and make recommendations
15 regarding the administrative, technological, legal, security, and fiscal requirements that
16 need to be met to implement a system that provides the public with real-time access to
17 campaign finance information for candidates for elected office in the State.

18 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the State
19 Board of Elections:

20 (1) shall research options for the creation of a searchable public database
21 that is linked to the bank accounts used by the campaign finance entities of the candidates
22 and would allow the public to view, in real time, the contributions made to and expenditures
23 made by a campaign finance entity; and

24 (2) may work in coordination with the Maryland Bankers Association.

25 (c) In making recommendations under subsection (a) of this section, the State

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Board of Elections shall include recommendations regarding the design, testing, and
2 implementation of the system, including any necessary proposed legislation and
3 administrative changes.

4 (d) On or before December 20, 2021, the State Board of Elections shall submit its
5 findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
6 Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with §
7 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2021.