

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 691 (Delegate Hornberger)
 Ways and Means

Election Law – Campaign Contributors – Disclosure of Owning or Controlling Individual or Business Entity

This bill requires that the treasurer of a campaign finance entity, to the extent practicable, record the name of the owning or controlling individual or business entity of each contributor that is a business entity that is (1) a wholly owned subsidiary of another business entity or (2) owned or controlled by at least 50% of the same individuals or business entities. A campaign finance report filed with the State Board of Elections (SBE) by a campaign finance entity must include that information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$30,000 in FY 2022 only. Revenues are not materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	30,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$30,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The treasurer of a campaign finance entity must keep a detailed and accurate account book of all assets received, expenditures made, and obligations incurred

by or on behalf of the entity. With the exception of specified contributions from the sale of a spin or chance or a raffle ticket, the account book must state, with respect to each asset received or expenditure made (1) its amount or value; (2) the date of the receipt or expenditure; (3) the name and address of the person from whom the asset was received or to whom the expenditure was made; and (4) a description of the asset received or the purpose for which the expenditure was made.

To the extent practicable, the treasurer of a campaign finance entity must record the occupation and employer of an individual who makes contributions to the campaign finance entity in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more during an election cycle.

For each election in which a campaign finance entity participates, it generally must file campaign finance reports at various times prior to and after the primary and general elections, as well as an annual report. 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 as well as the information regarding the occupations and employers of contributors required to be recorded by the treasurer.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$30,000 in fiscal 2022 only to make one-time programming changes to SBE's campaign finance reporting system. The programming changes are needed to incorporate the additional reported information into the reporting and auditing modules of the system.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Office of the State Prosecutor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2021
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