

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 979

(Delegate Terrasa)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

---

**Municipal Elections – Candidates – Reports of Donations and Disbursements**

---

This bill requires a municipality to (1) require candidates for municipal office to file reports of donations received, and disbursements made, to promote the election of the candidate and (2) transmit a copy of each report that is filed, to the State Board of Elections (SBE), within five days after the filing deadline for each report. A municipality may establish specified exceptions for candidates with minimal donations and disbursements. SBE must make the reports publicly available on its website. At the request of a municipality, SBE must provide advice and training to the municipality on the implementation of the bill's provisions. The bill's provisions replace a requirement that a candidate in a municipal election submit to SBE a copy of a campaign finance report filed with a municipality, if the municipality requires candidates to file campaign finance reports, within 10 days after the filing deadline. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** SBE can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** If a municipality requires candidates in a municipal election to file campaign finance reports, within 10 days after the filing deadline, each candidate in the municipal election must submit to SBE a copy of the campaign finance report filed by the candidate.

---

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years; however, legislation with similar provisions has been proposed. For example, see HB 93 of 2022.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2023  
km/sdk Third Reader - March 21, 2023  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 21, 2023

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510