

SB0978/643623/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 978
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the top of the page, strike “EMERGENCY BILL”; in line 5, strike “or submit to the State Board of Elections for publication”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 8 down through “media;” in line 11; in line 20, strike “and (b)”; and after line 22, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Election Law

Section 13–602(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 2, strike “(1)”; strike beginning with “THE” in line 2 down through “MEDIA” in line 10 and substitute “, “SYNTHETIC MEDIA””; in line 14, after “THAT” insert “ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE CASTING OF A VOTE OR A DECISION TO VOTE BY”; in lines 15 and 17, strike “(I)” and “(II)”, respectively, and substitute “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively; in line 15, strike “PURPORTS” and substitute “PURPORTING”; strike beginning with “INDIVIDUAL” in line 15 down through “CONDUCT;” in line 16 and substitute “, CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE OR THE SPEECH OR CONDUCT OF THE CANDIDATE; OR”; in line 17, strike “PRODUCES” and substitute “PRODUCING”; strike beginning with the semicolon in line 20 down through “MEDIA” in line 22; after line 22, insert:

“(B) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A CANDIDATE OR AN AGENT OF A CANDIDATE, A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY OR AN AGENT OF A CAMPAIGN

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FINANCE ENTITY, OR A PERSON REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 13-306, § 13-307, OR § 13-309.2 OF THIS TITLE OR AN AGENT OF A PERSON REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 13-306, § 13-307, OR § 13-309.2 OF THIS TITLE.”;

in line 23, strike “(B)” and substitute “(2)”; and after line 23, insert:

“(I) A NEWS STORY, A COMMENTARY, OR AN EDITORIAL DISSEMINATED BY A BROADCASTING STATION, INCLUDING A CABLE TELEVISION OPERATOR, PROGRAMMER, OR PRODUCER, OR SATELLITE TELEVISION OR RADIO PROVIDER, WEBSITE, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, OR OTHER PERIODICAL PUBLICATION, INCLUDING ANY INTERNET OR ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION, THAT IS NOT CONTROLLED BY A CANDIDATE OR POLITICAL PARTY; OR”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 24 on page 2 through line 13 on page 3, inclusive.

On page 3, in line 14, strike “(3)” and substitute “(II)”; in lines 15 and 18, strike “(1)” and “1.”, respectively; in line 17, strike “WITHIN 90 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION”; in lines 18 and 23, strike “(I)” and “(II)”, respectively, and substitute “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively; in lines 18 and 19, strike “EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,”; strike beginning with “OR” in line 20 down through “WEBSITE;” in line 22; and in line 23, strike “IN” and substitute “IN”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 26 on page 3 through line 2 on page 4, inclusive.

On page 4, in lines 5, 14, and 27, in each instance, after “OCCUR” insert “IN REALITY”; in lines 7 and 8, strike “: 1.”; and strike beginning with the semicolon in line 8 down through “IMAGE” in line 10.

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On page 5, strike in their entirety lines 6 through 9, inclusive; in line 10, strike “**(F)**” and substitute “**(E)**”; strike beginning with the colon in line 10 down through “**(2)**” in line 16; in line 28, strike “**(1)**”; in the same line, strike the brackets; and strike beginning with “**EXCEPT**” in line 28 down through “**A**” in line 29.

On page 6, in lines 1 and 3, in each instance, strike the brackets; in the same lines, strike “**(I)**” and “**(II)**”, respectively; strike in their entirety lines 5 through 11, inclusive; and strike beginning with “is” in line 12 down through “enacted” in line 16 and substitute “shall take effect June 1, 2024”.