

# HOUSE BILL 1454

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By: **Delegate Queen**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Campaign Finance – Security Expenditures – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a treasurer of a campaign finance entity to keep certain  
4 records relating to a security expenditure; authorizing a campaign finance entity to  
5 make certain security expenditures; requiring certain individuals to return certain  
6 security-related items to the campaign finance entity that purchased the items or to  
7 reimburse the campaign finance entity for the items; requiring campaign finance  
8 reports to include certain information regarding a threat that necessitated a security  
9 expenditure; and generally relating to security expenditures by campaign finance  
10 entities.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Election Law  
13 Section 1–101(a) and 13–221(a)(1)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Election Law  
18 Section 1–101(aa), 13–221(a)(2), and 13–304(b)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Election Law  
23 Section 13–251  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Election Law**

2 1–101.

3 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a  
4 different meaning is clearly intended from the context.5 (aa) **(1)** “Expenditure” means a gift, transfer, disbursement, or promise of  
6 money or a thing of value by or on behalf of a campaign finance entity to:7 **[(1)] (I)** promote or assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of a  
8 candidate, political party, question, or prospective question at an election;9 **[(2)] (II)** pay expenses associated with contesting an election under Title  
10 12 of this article; or11 **[(3)] (III)** pay for the publication expense of a legislative newsletter under  
12 Title 13, Subtitle 4 of this article.13 **(2) “EXPENDITURE” INCLUDES A SECURITY EXPENDITURE UNDER §**  
14 **13–251 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

15 13–221.

16 (a) (1) The treasurer of a campaign finance entity shall keep a detailed and  
17 accurate account book of all assets received, expenditures made, and obligations incurred  
18 by or on behalf of the entity.19 (2) Except as provided in § 13–240 of this subtitle, as to each asset received  
20 or expenditure made, the account book shall state:

21 (i) its amount or value;

22 (ii) the date of the receipt or expenditure;

23 (iii) the name and address of the person from whom the asset was  
24 received or to whom the expenditure was made; [and]25 (iv) a description of the asset received or the purpose for which the  
26 expenditure was made; **AND**27 **(V) FOR A SECURITY EXPENDITURE OR REIMBURSEMENT**  
28 **UNDER § 13–251 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EVIDENCE OF THE**  
29 **THREAT THAT GAVE RISE TO THE SECURITY EXPENDITURE.**

1 **13-251.**

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "CONTINUING THREAT" MEANS A THREAT TO A PROTECTEE THAT:

5 (I) ARISES FROM THE PROTECTEE'S ACTIVITIES, DUTIES, OR  
6 STATUS AS, OR ASSOCIATION WITH, A CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL; AND

7 (II) HAS BEEN REPORTED TO, AND VERIFIED BY, AN  
8 APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

9 (3) "PAY" INCLUDES REIMBURSEMENT TO THE STATE FOR A  
10 SECURITY EXPENSE ASSOCIATED WITH A PROTECTEE.

11 (4) (I) "PROTECTEE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BEING  
12 PROTECTED.

13 (II) "PROTECTEE" INCLUDES:

14 1. A CANDIDATE;

15 2. AN ELECTED OFFICIAL;

16 3. A MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF A  
17 CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL; AND

18 4. A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF A CANDIDATE OR  
19 ELECTED OFFICIAL.

20 (5) "SECURITY EXPENDITURE" INCLUDES PAYMENT FOR THE  
21 REASONABLE COST OF:

22 (I) THE INSTALLATION AND MONITORING OF AN ELECTRONIC  
23 SECURITY SYSTEM;

24 (II) PERSONAL SECURITY SERVICES;

25 (III) REIMBURSING THE STATE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES  
26 NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SECURITY TO A PROTECTEE; AND

1                   **(IV) OTHER GOODS OR SERVICES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE**  
2 **SECURITY TO A PROTECTEE.**

3           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A SECURITY**  
4 **EXPENDITURE MAY BE MADE FROM CAMPAIGN FUNDS IF A THREAT TO A**  
5 **PROTECTEE'S SAFETY ARISES FROM:**

6                   **(1) THE PROTECTEE'S ACTIVITIES, DUTIES, OR STATUS AS A**  
7 **CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL; OR**

8                   **(2) THE PROTECTEE'S ASSOCIATION WITH A CANDIDATE OR ELECTED**  
9 **OFFICIAL.**

10           **(C) A SECURITY EXPENDITURE MAY NOT BE MADE:**

11                   **(1) TO PAY FOR A FIREARM; OR**

12                   **(2) TO A CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL'S CHILD, GRANDCHILD,**  
13 **GREAT-GRANDCHILD, PARENT, GRANDPARENT, GREAT-GRANDPARENT, SIBLING,**  
14 **SIBLING'S CHILD, OR PARENT'S SIBLING.**

15           **(D) TOTAL LIFETIME SECURITY EXPENDITURES MADE ON BEHALF OF AN**  
16 **INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A CANDIDATE OR AN ELECTED OFFICIAL MAY NOT EXCEED**  
17 **\$10,000.**

18           **(E) WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS**  
19 **SECTION:**

20                   **(1) A TANGIBLE ITEM PURCHASED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE**  
21 **RETURNED TO THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY THAT PURCHASED THE TANGIBLE**  
22 **ITEM; OR**

23                   **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
24 **INDIVIDUAL WHO RETAINS THE TANGIBLE ITEM SHALL REIMBURSE THE CAMPAIGN**  
25 **FINANCE ENTITY THAT PURCHASED THE TANGIBLE ITEM.**

26           **(F) REIMBURSEMENT OR RETURN OF A TANGIBLE ITEM UNDER**  
27 **SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE:**

28                   **(1) FOR A CONTINUING THREAT, AT THE EARLIER OF:**

29                           **(I) WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE CESSATION OF THE CONTINUING**  
30 **THREAT; OR**

1                   (II) ON SALE OF THE REAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH A TANGIBLE  
2 ITEM WAS PURCHASED WITH A SECURITY EXPENDITURE; OR

3                   (2) FOR A THREAT OTHER THAN A CONTINUING THREAT, AT THE  
4 EARLIER OF:

5                   (I) WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE END OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL'S  
6 TERM OR AFTER A CANDIDATE CEASES TO BE A CANDIDATE; OR

7                   (II) ON SALE OF THE REAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH A TANGIBLE  
8 ITEM WAS PURCHASED THROUGH A SECURITY EXPENDITURE.

9                   (G) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL REIMBURSE A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY  
10 FOR A TANGIBLE ITEM RETAINED UNDER THIS SECTION AT FAIR MARKET VALUE.

11                   (2) FOR PURPOSES OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
12 FAIR MARKET VALUE SHALL BE DETERMINED AT THE EARLIER OF THE TIME THAT  
13 THE REIMBURSEMENT IS MADE OR THE TIME THAT THE REIMBURSEMENT IS DUE.

14                   (H) FOR A TANGIBLE ITEM PURCHASED FOR, OR A SECURITY SYSTEM  
15 INSTALLED AT THE HOME OR OFFICE OR ON THE VEHICLE OF, AN IMMEDIATE  
16 FAMILY MEMBER OR STAFF OF A CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL,  
17 REIMBURSEMENT MAY BE MADE BY THE CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL OR THE  
18 IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OR STAFF OF THE CANDIDATE OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

19                   (I) (1) IN EACH CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT THAT INCLUDES A  
20 SECURITY EXPENDITURE, A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY SHALL INCLUDE:

21                   (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE THREAT THAT NECESSITATED THE  
22 SECURITY EXPENDITURE; AND

23                   (II) DOCUMENTATION SUFFICIENT TO VERIFY THE THREAT.

24                   (2) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED UNDER PARAGRAPH  
25 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ON A FORM THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES.

26 13-304.

27                   (b) A campaign finance report filed by a campaign finance entity under subsection  
28 (a) of this section shall include:

1           (1) the information required by the State Board with respect to all  
2 contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the campaign finance  
3 entity during the designated reporting period; [and]

4           (2) the information regarding the occupations and employers of  
5 contributors required to be recorded by the treasurer of a campaign finance entity under §  
6 13–221 of this title; AND

7           **(3) THE INFORMATION REGARDING SECURITY EXPENDITURES**  
8 **REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED UNDER § 13–251 OF THIS TITLE.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
10 1, 2026.