

Chapter 443

(House Bill 260)

AN ACT concerning

~~Public Financing Act~~ ***Campaign Financing – Campaign Finance Reporting
Deadline and Fair Campaign Financing Fund – Distributions Distributions***

FOR the purpose of altering the day that a certain campaign finance report is due to be filed with the State Board of Elections; requiring that a certain campaign finance report cover a certain period of time; altering the earliest date on which the State Board of Elections may begin making distributions from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund; and generally relating to distributions from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund campaign finance.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Election Law
 Section 13–309(a) and 15–102(a) and (f)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Election Law
 Section 13–309(b)(2) and (c), 13–312, and 15–107(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

13–309.

(a) Subject to other provisions of this subtitle and except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a campaign finance entity shall file campaign finance reports as follows:

(1) in the gubernatorial election year only, except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the third Tuesday in April, if the campaign finance entity did not file the annual campaign finance report specified under subsection (b)(2) of this section on the immediately preceding third Wednesday in January;

(2) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the fifth Tuesday immediately preceding each primary election;

(3) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the second Friday immediately preceding a primary election;

(4) on or before the last Tuesday in August immediately preceding a general election;

(5) for a ballot issue committee only, on or before the fourth Friday immediately preceding a general election;

(6) on or before the second Friday immediately preceding a general election;
and

(7) on or before the second Tuesday after a general election.

(b) (2) In addition to the campaign finance reports required under subsection (a) of this section, but subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a campaign finance entity shall file a campaign finance report on the [third] **FOURTH** Wednesday in January.

(c) In addition to the campaign finance reports required under subsection (a) of this section, a continuing political committee shall file a campaign finance report on the [third] **FOURTH** Wednesday in January of each year the committee is in existence.

13-312.

(a) Campaign finance reports filed under § 13-304 of this subtitle shall cover the following reporting periods:

(1) the first campaign finance report shall cover the period from the date of organization of the campaign finance entity through the day specified in item (3) of this subsection;

(2) each subsequent campaign finance report shall cover the period from the closing date of the previous campaign finance report through the day specified in item (3) of this subsection;

(3) (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this item, each campaign finance report shall cover the period that includes the seventh day before the day the campaign finance report is due; but

(ii) **1.** the campaign finance report that is required on or before the second Friday immediately preceding an election shall cover the period through and including the preceding Sunday; and

2. THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT THAT IS REQUIRED ON OR BEFORE THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY SHALL COVER THE PERIOD

THROUGH AND INCLUDING THE 14TH DAY BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT IS DUE; AND

(4) if no contribution is received and no expenditure is made during the period covered by a campaign finance report, the campaign finance entity shall file a campaign finance report or an affidavit under § 13-305 of this subtitle to that effect.

(b) A campaign finance report preceded by an affidavit filed in accordance with this subtitle shall cover the period from the closing date of the previous campaign finance report or date of organization of the campaign finance entity through the day specified in subsection (a)(3) of this section.

15-102.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(f) “Fund” means the Fair Campaign Financing Fund.

15-107.

(a) (1) In accordance with subsection (c) of this section and regulations adopted by the State Board, the State Board shall authorize distribution of money in the Fund on a continuing basis on certification that the qualifications under § 15-104 of this title have been met.

(2) Distributions shall begin not earlier than [January] **JULY** 1 of the year [of] **BEFORE** the election.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.