

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 207 (Delegate Vogel)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Election Law - Certificate of Candidacy for Congressional Offices - Stock Trading Activities (Congressional Stock Trading Transparency Act)

This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to include on the certificate of candidacy form for congressional candidates the option to indicate that, if elected, the candidate and the candidate's spouse will not buy, sell, or exchange individual stocks during the candidate's term of office. If a candidate makes this indication, SBE must publish that information on its website. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual may become a candidate for a public or party office only if the individual files a certificate of candidacy, which must be filed under oath on a prescribed form. Certificates of candidacy filed by candidates for the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives are filed with SBE. On the certificate of candidacy form prescribed by SBE, a candidate must specify:

- the office, including, if applicable, the party, district, and circuit to which the candidacy relates;
- the year of the election;

- the name of the individual filing the certificate;
- the address on the statewide voter registration list or the current address of that individual;
- a statement that the individual satisfies the requirements of law for candidacy for the office for which the certificate is being filed; and
- any information requested by SBE to verify the accuracy of the information provided by the individual.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2026
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