

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
Counties' Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 301
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3616 · 301-858-3616
800-492-7122 Ext. 3616
Arthur.Ellis@senate.state.md.us

District Office
3261 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20602

Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable

Senate Bill 366: Campaign Finance – Civil Penalties - Process

February 25, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I, Senator Ellis, am proud to introduce Senate Bill 366 entitled, “Campaign Finance – Civil Penalties – Process,” to establish notice and appeal regulatory requirements to improve election and campaign integrity in Maryland.

Senate Bill 366 will require the State Board of Elections to notify individuals who are believed to be committing a violation connected to campaign finance. The Board of Elections will be required to issue a notice that includes the nature, time, and alleged place of the violation, as well as other relevant details such as the amount of the penalty and the right of the individual to request a hearing before the state Board of Elections.

Senate Bill 366 will also require the Board of Elections to establish and publish an appeal process, including guidelines for the resolution of appeals, timelines for each stage of the appeals process, and contact information for assistance or inquiries regarding the appeal process. To ensure effectiveness and efficiency, the Board will also be required to develop a communications plan that includes training for relevant staff and members of the Board of Elections. Additionally, the Board of Elections would be required to provide educational materials and perform outreach to authorized candidate campaign committees about compliance with campaign finance laws, best practices, and information about the appeals process.

These key improvements will ensure transparency and assist individuals and their campaign staff with compliance and best practices to avoid a violation. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 366 to improve campaign finance and election integrity.

Sincerely,



Arthur Ellis