

Testimony Against HB0157

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable decision about HB0157.

Although I agree with most of the proposed Section 13-107, I disagree with one section so much that I recommend an unfavorable report rather than recommending a Favorable report with amendment.

I disagree with Subsection (G)(2)(I) and (G)(2)(II) on page 5, lines 1-17 that discuss what to do with any remaining funds once the Exploratory Committee ends. The proposed process is to return any remaining funds when an exploratory committee ends on a pro rata basis to the contributors OR give the remaining funds to the state or local central committee.

I believe that refunds MUST be offered to the contributors first. Only if the refund is refused by the contributor or the committee documents that the contributor did not respond and documents the unsuccessful efforts to contact them, then, and only then, should any funds be donated to a central committee. Some donors may not realize when the exploratory committees have ended and not realize that they could have receive a refund until after any remaining funds have been donated to a central committee.

As proposed, an exploratory committee (that has no restrictions on the amounts that can be donated), could be established for a position when the candidate has no real chance of winning or no real desire of running. By not having to refund any leftover funds to the contributors, these iffy exploratory committees that did not spend much money on the effort could then be used as a de facto fund raiser for the Central Committees. By requiring sufficient record keeping to enable refunds, it would make it more difficult to use bogus exploratory committees as a de facto source of funding for central committees.

Please enter an unfavorable report on HB0157.

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