

HOUSE BILL 1558

G1, G2

EMERGENCY BILL

5lr3657
CF SB 1047

By: **Delegates Kipke, Adams, Arentz, Arian, Baker, Beauchamp, Bouchat, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Ghris, Grammer, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Howard, Hutchinson, Jacobs, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Miller, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nkongolo, Otto, Pippy, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Szeliga, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 17, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – State Elected Officials – Fundraising Activities During General**
3 **Assembly Session**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the entities with respect to which certain officials or persons
5 acting on behalf of certain officials are prohibited from taking certain actions related
6 to fundraising during a regular session of the General Assembly; prohibiting certain
7 officials or persons acting on behalf of certain officials from participating in certain
8 fundraising events in a certain manner during a regular session of the General
9 Assembly; and generally relating to fundraising activities of State elected officials.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 13–235
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 13–235.

19 (a) This section applies to the following officials:

20 (1) the Governor;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (2) the Lieutenant Governor;
- (3) the Attorney General;
- (4) the Comptroller;
- (5) the State Treasurer; and
- (6) a member of the General Assembly.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), (d), or (e) of this section, during a regular session of the General Assembly an official described in subsection (a) of this section, or a person acting on behalf of the official, may not, as to a candidate for federal, State, or local office[,] or a [campaign finance entity of the candidate or any other campaign finance entity organized under this title and operated in coordination with a candidate] **POLITICAL COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER THIS TITLE OR FEDERAL LAW:**

- (1) receive a contribution;
- (2) conduct a fund-raising event;

(3) PARTICIPATE IN A FUNDRAISING EVENT AS A FEATURED GUEST OR SPEAKER OR IN ANOTHER ROLE INTENDED TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE AT OR THE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESULTING FROM THE FUNDRAISING EVENT;

[(3)] (4) solicit a contribution; or

[(4)] (5) deposit or use any contribution of money that was not deposited prior to the session.

(c) An official described in subsection (a) of this section, or a person acting on behalf of the official, is not subject to this section when engaged in activities solely related to the official's election to an elective federal or local office for which the official is a filed candidate.

(d) Under the Public Financing Act, a gubernatorial ticket, during the year of the election only, may accept eligible private contributions and any disbursement of funds by the State Board that is based on the eligible private contributions.

(e) An official described in subsection (a) of this section, or a person acting on behalf of the official, may deposit a contribution during the legislative session if the contribution was made electronically before the start of the session.

(f) (1) As to a violation of this section, the campaign finance entity of the official in violation is liable for a civil penalty as provided in § 13–604.1 of this title.

1 (2) A civil penalty imposed under this subsection shall be distributed to the
2 Fair Campaign Financing Fund established under § 15–103 of this article.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
4 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
5 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to
6 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
7 enacted.