

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 210
Ways and Means

(Delegate Reilly, *et al.*)

Campaign Finance - Campaign Committee of Deceased Elected Official -
Transfer to Appointed Spouse

This bill requires that the authorized candidate campaign committee of an elected official who dies in office become the authorized candidate campaign committee of the deceased official's spouse if the deceased official's spouse is appointed in accordance with applicable law to succeed the deceased official in the office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Unless otherwise expressly authorized by law, all campaign finance activity for an election under the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code must be conducted through a campaign finance entity (defined as a political committee established under Title 13 of the Election Law Article). An individual may not file a certificate of candidacy or a declaration of intent until the individual establishes, or causes to be established, an authorized candidate campaign committee (a campaign finance entity authorized by the candidate to promote the candidate's candidacy).

State election law does not explicitly address the handling of an authorized candidate campaign committee if a candidate or elected official dies but does contain provisions

relating to the termination of a campaign finance entity of an individual and disposition of surplus funds of a campaign finance entity (either distributed pro rata to contributors or to any of a number of other entities, including political party central committees, the Fair Campaign Financing Fund, and education-related and charitable entities).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2019
mm/hlb

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