

HOUSE BILL 917

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CF SB 601

By: **Delegates Carr, Cardin, Bobo, Gutierrez, Hucker, Montgomery, Ramirez, and Shewell**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2010

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Campaign Finance – Prohibition of Contributions by Business**
3 **Entities**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain business entities from making a contribution to
5 a campaign finance entity; defining a certain term; providing for a delayed
6 effective date; and generally relating to campaign finance contributions by
7 business entities.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 13–226
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 13–226.

17 (a) The limits on contributions in this section do not apply to:

18 (1) a contribution to a ballot issue committee; or

19 (2) those contributions defined as transfers.

20 (b) Subject to [subsection (c)] **SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D)** of this section, a
21 person may not, either directly or indirectly, in an election cycle make:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) aggregate contributions in excess of:
2 (i) \$4,000 to any one campaign finance entity; or
3 (ii) \$10,000 to all campaign finance entities; or
4 (2) a contribution of money in excess of \$100 except by check or credit
5 card.

6 (C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS A
7 CORPORATION, GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY
8 COMPANY, OR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST.

9 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A
10 BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A CAMPAIGN FINANCE
11 ENTITY.

12 [(c)] (D) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a central
13 committee of a political party may make aggregate in-kind contributions during an
14 election cycle that are not in excess of:

15 (i) for a State central committee, \$1 for every two registered
16 voters in the State; and

17 (ii) for a local central committee, \$1 for every two registered
18 voters in the county.

19 (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the number of
20 registered voters is determined, regardless of party affiliation, as of the first day of the
21 election cycle.

22 [(d)] (E) The limit on contributions to the campaign finance entity of a
23 candidate applies regardless of the number of offices sought by the candidate or
24 campaign finance entities formed to support the candidate.

25 [(e) Contributions by a corporation and any wholly-owned subsidiary of the
26 corporation, or by two or more corporations owned by the same stockholders, shall be
27 considered as being made by one contributor.]

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 January 1, 2011.