

HOUSE BILL 156

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6lr2254

By: **Delegates West, Arentz, Aumann, Cluster, Hettleman, and Lierman**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Campaign Material – Clarification of Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the definition of “campaign material” by providing that, to
4 meet the definition of “campaign material”, the text, graphics, or other images of the
5 material must primarily relate to campaign activity for an election; and generally
6 relating to the definition of “campaign material”.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 1–101(k)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 13–401
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Election Law**

20 1–101.

21 (k) (1) “Campaign material” means any material that:

22 (i) contains text, graphics, or other images **THAT ARE PRIMARILY**
23 **RELATED TO CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY FOR AN ELECTION;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) relates to a candidate, a prospective candidate, or the approval
2 or rejection of a question; and

3 (iii) is published or distributed.

4 (2) "Campaign material" includes:

5 (i) material transmitted by or appearing on the Internet or other
6 electronic medium; and

7 (ii) an oral commercial campaign advertisement.

8 13-401.

9 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each item of campaign
10 material shall contain, set apart from any other message, an authority line that states:

11 (i) as to campaign material published or distributed by a campaign
12 finance entity:

13 1. the name and address of the treasurer of each campaign
14 finance entity responsible for the campaign material; and

15 2. as to each treasurer named under item 1 of this item, the
16 name of each campaign finance entity for which the treasurer is acting; and

17 (ii) as to campaign material published or distributed by any other
18 person, the name and address of the person responsible for the campaign material.

19 (2) The authority line may omit an address that is on file with the State
20 Board or a local board.

21 (3) If the campaign material is too small to include all the information
22 specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection in a legible manner, the authority line need
23 only contain the name and title of the treasurer or other person responsible for it.

24 (4) The authority line for campaign material that is a commercial
25 advertisement need only contain the information specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this
26 subsection for one campaign finance entity or other person responsible for the
27 advertisement.

28 (b) Campaign material that is published or distributed in support of or in
29 opposition to a candidate, but is not authorized by the candidate, shall include the following
30 statement:

1 “This message has been authorized and paid for by (name of payor or any
2 organization affiliated with the payor), (name and title of treasurer or president). This
3 message has not been authorized or approved by any candidate.”

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2016.