

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 234
Ways and Means

(Delegates Rosenberg and Luedtke)

**Campaign Finance - Making a Contribution During General Assembly Session -
Prohibition**

This bill prohibits a person from, directly or indirectly, making a contribution to specified elected officials, or persons acting on the elected officials' behalf, during a regular session of the General Assembly. The prohibition under the bill applies only to a person who has received notice of the requirements prohibiting such a contribution, from an elected official to whom the requirements apply or a person acting on the official's behalf.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State campaign finance law prohibits specified campaign finance activity, including receiving or soliciting contributions, during a regular session of the General Assembly by, or on behalf of, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and members of the General Assembly. Exceptions apply for activities solely related to the official's election to an elective federal or local office for which the official is a filed candidate and for publicly financed gubernatorial tickets.

Unless otherwise specified, a person who knowingly and willfully violates State campaign finance law is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$25,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2017
fn/hlb

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