

HOUSE BILL 979

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3lr2688

By: **Delegate Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipal Elections – Candidates – Reports of Donations and Disbursements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a municipality to require candidates for municipal office to
4 file reports of donations and disbursements; requiring a municipality to transmit a
5 copy of each report that is filed to the State Board of Elections; requiring the State
6 Board to make the reports publicly available on its website; and generally relating
7 to reports of donations and disbursements by candidates in municipal elections.

8 BY repealing

9 Article – Local Government

10 Section 4–108.2

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Local Government

15 Section 4–108.2

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Local Government**

21 **[4–108.2.**

22 If a municipality requires candidates in a municipal election to file campaign finance
23 reports, within 10 days after the filing deadline, each candidate in the municipal election

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



shall submit to the State Board of Elections a copy of the campaign finance report that was filed by the candidate.]

4-108.2.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "DISBURSEMENT" MEANS AN EXPENDITURE, A GIFT, A TRANSFER, OR A PROMISE OF MONEY OR OTHER THING OF VALUE BY A CANDIDATE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TO PROMOTE THE ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE.

(3) "DONATION" MEANS THE GIFT, TRANSFER, OR PROMISE OF GIFT OR TRANSFER OF MONEY OR OTHER THING OF VALUE TO A CANDIDATE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TO PROMOTE THE ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE.

(4) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

(B) A MUNICIPALITY SHALL REQUIRE CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE TO FILE REPORTS OF DONATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

(C) WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DEADLINE FOR EACH REPORT OF DONATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS, A MUNICIPALITY SHALL TRANSMIT A COPY OF EACH REPORT THAT IS FILED TO THE STATE BOARD.

(D) THE STATE BOARD SHALL MAKE EACH REPORT THAT IT RECEIVES UNDER THIS SECTION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE.

(E) AT THE REQUEST OF A MUNICIPALITY, THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE ADVICE AND TRAINING TO THE MUNICIPALITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.