

HOUSE BILL 331

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4lr2273

By: **Delegates Guyton, Allen, Bagnall, Boyce, Feldmark, Foley, Forbes, Griffith, Healey, Hill, Holmes, Jackson, Kaufman, Lehman, Love, Palakovich Carr, Patterson, Ruth, Shetty, Simpson, Stewart, Taveras, Toles, Valderrama, White Holland, Wilkins, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Candidate Expenditures – Campaign–Related Child Care**
3 **Expenses**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “expenditure” to include reasonable expenses
5 for child care services that a candidate incurs; and generally relating to candidate
6 expenditures.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 1–101(a) and (l)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 1–101(l–2)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Election Law
19 Section 1–101(aa)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Election Law

1–101.

(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a different meaning is clearly intended from the context.

(l) (1) “Candidate” means an individual who files a certificate of candidacy for a public or party office.

(2) “Candidate” includes:

(i) an incumbent justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland or Appellate Court of Maryland at an election for continuance in office; and

(ii) an individual, prior to that individual filing a certificate of candidacy, if a campaign finance entity has been established on behalf of that individual.

(L–2) (1) “CHILD CARE SERVICES” MEANS DIRECT CARE, PROTECTION, AND SUPERVISION OF A CHILD FOR WHOM A CANDIDATE HAS DIRECT CHILD CARE RESPONSIBILITY.

(2) “CHILD CARE SERVICES” DOES NOT INCLUDE PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION OR TUTORING SERVICES.

(aa) (1) “Expenditure” means a gift, transfer, disbursement, or promise of money or a thing of value by or on behalf of a campaign finance entity to:

[(1)] (I) promote or assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, question, or prospective question at an election;

[(2)] (II) pay expenses associated with contesting an election under Title 12 of this article; or

[(3)] (III) pay for the publication expense of a legislative newsletter under Title 13, Subtitle 4 of this article.

(2) “EXPENDITURE” INCLUDES REASONABLE EXPENSES FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES THAT A CANDIDATE INCURS AS A DIRECT RESULT OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY AND THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY OF THE CANDIDATE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2025.