

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 564
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County - Restrictions on Campaign Fund-Raising Activities by
Members of the Board of Community College Trustees
PG 408-10

This emergency bill prohibits a member of the Board of Community College Trustees for Prince George's County from engaging in specified campaign fundraising activities for the benefit of specified elected officials. The bill also specifies that a board member may not be a candidate for a public office while serving on the board. The bill, however, does not prohibit a board member from making a personal political contribution, informing any entity of a position taken by a candidate or official, or engaging in other activities not specifically prohibited under the bill. The bill's restrictions apply from the date of a member's appointment until the end of the member's tenure on the board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect Prince George's County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A member of the Board of Community College Trustees for Prince George's County may not, for the benefit of the Prince George's County Executive, a member of the of Prince George's County Council, the Governor,

Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, or Comptroller, or a member of the General Assembly, or a candidate for election to any of those offices:

- solicit or transmit a political contribution from any person, including a political committee;
- serve on a fundraising committee or a political committee;
- act as a treasurer for a candidate or official or as treasurer or chair of a political committee;
- organize or establish a political committee for the purpose of soliciting or transmitting contributions from any person; or
- forward tickets for fundraising activities or other solicitations for political contributions to a potential contributor.

The terms “candidate,” “contribution,” and “political committee” have the meanings stated in the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code.

Current Law: The Board of Community College Trustees for Prince George’s County consists of nine members who are residents of the county. Eight of the members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serve five-year terms. The remaining member is a regularly enrolled student in good standing at Prince George’s Community College, who is elected by the student body of the college.

There is a board of community college trustees in each county that has one or more community colleges. Each board of community college trustees has various powers and duties, subject to the authority of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Each board may establish and operate one or more community colleges, with the approval of MHEC, and exercises general control over the community college(s).

Under the Election Law Article, “candidate” generally means an individual who files a certificate of candidacy for a public or party office. “Contribution” means the gift or transfer, or promise of gift or transfer, of money or other thing of value to a campaign finance entity (political committee) to promote or assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or question. “Political committee” means a combination of two or more individuals that assists or attempts to assist in promoting the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or question submitted to a vote at any election.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2010
ncs/mwc

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510