

Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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Stored – 10/10/19
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By: **Senator Lam**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education**

3 **Ho. Co. 22–20**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Howard County to establish, by law,
5 a system of public campaign financing for elected members of the county board of
6 education; making conforming changes; making a technical correction; and generally
7 relating to public campaign financing in Howard County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 13–505
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 13–505.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) **(I)** Subject to the provisions of this section, the governing body of a
2 county may establish, by law, a system of public campaign financing for elective offices in
3 the executive or legislative branches of county government.

4 **(II) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE**
5 **GOVERNING BODY OF HOWARD COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH, BY LAW, A SYSTEM OF**
6 **PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF**
7 **EDUCATION.**

8 (2) When establishing a system of public campaign financing for [elective
9 offices in the executive or legislative branches of county government] **AN OFFICE UNDER**
10 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, the governing body of a county shall:

11 (i) specify the criteria that [is] **ARE** to be used to determine whether
12 an individual is eligible for public campaign financing; and

13 (ii) provide the funding and staff necessary for the operation,
14 administration, and auditing of the system of public campaign financing.

15 (b) A system of public campaign financing enacted under subsection (a) of this
16 section:

17 (1) shall provide for participation of candidates in public campaign
18 financing on a strictly voluntary basis;

19 (2) may not regulate candidates who choose not to participate in public
20 campaign financing;

21 (3) shall prohibit the use of public campaign financing for any campaign
22 except a campaign for county elective office;

23 (4) shall require a candidate who accepts public campaign financing to:

24 (i) establish a campaign finance entity solely for the campaign for
25 county elective office; and

26 (ii) use funds from that campaign finance entity only for the
27 campaign for county elective office;

1 (5) shall prohibit a candidate who accepts public campaign financing from
2 transferring funds:

3 (i) to the campaign finance entity established to finance the
4 campaign for county elective office from any other campaign finance entity established for
5 the candidate; and

6 (ii) from the campaign finance entity established to finance the
7 campaign for county elective office to any other campaign finance entity;

8 (6) shall provide for a public election fund for county elective offices that is
9 administered by the chief financial officer of the county; and

10 (7) shall be subject to regulation and oversight by the State Board to ensure
11 conformity with State law and policy to the extent practicable.

12 (c) A system of public campaign financing enacted under subsection (a) of this
13 section may:

14 (1) provide for more stringent regulation of campaign finance activity by
15 candidates who choose to accept public campaign financing, including contributions,
16 expenditures, reporting, and campaign material, than is provided for by State law; and

17 (2) provide for administrative penalties for violations, in accordance with §
18 10–202 of the Local Government Article.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2020.