

HOUSE BILL 867

P5, G2

3lr0625

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Use of Public Resources – Ballot Issues**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a member of the General Assembly to use public
4 resources to promote the success or defeat of a ballot issue; and generally
5 relating to the use of public resources by members of the General Assembly.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – State Government
8 Section 2–108
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, Ethics Opinion #12 issued by the Joint Committee on Legislative
13 Ethics imposes limitations on a member’s use of General Assembly letterhead,
14 electronic mail, State–owned computers and other equipment, and legislative
15 buildings for campaign activity; and

16 WHEREAS, The presiding officers of the General Assembly, in a memorandum
17 issued on March 14, 2007, set out guidelines for the use of the General Assembly’s
18 Print Shop and Mail Room; now, therefore,

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

21 **Article – State Government**

22 2–108.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) **(1)** [Public] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
2 **SUBSECTION, PUBLIC** resources may be used by members of the General Assembly
3 only for public purposes.

4 **(2)** **A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY USE, TO THE**
5 **EXTENT PERMITTED FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY, PUBLIC RESOURCES TO**
6 **PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF A BALLOT ISSUE.**

7 (b) This section does not prohibit incidental use of public resources for
8 nonpublic purposes.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2013.