

SENATE BILL 754

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5lr2539

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2015

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Campaign Finance Reports – Filing Deadlines**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision of law to require that certain campaign
4 finance entities file a certain campaign finance report on or before a certain day in a
5 gubernatorial election year, rather than in every year; and generally relating to filing
6 deadlines for campaign finance reports.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 13–309
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 13–309.

16 (a) Subject to other provisions of this subtitle and except as provided in subsection
17 (d) of this section, a campaign finance entity shall file campaign finance reports as follows:

18 (1) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the third Tuesday in
19 April **IN A GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION YEAR**, if the campaign finance entity did not file
20 the annual campaign finance report specified under subsection (b)(2) of this section on the
21 immediately preceding third Wednesday in January;

22 (2) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the fifth Tuesday
23 immediately preceding each primary election;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) except for a ballot issue committee, on or before the second Friday
2 immediately preceding a primary election;

3 (4) on or before the last Tuesday in August immediately preceding a
4 general election;

5 (5) for a ballot issue committee only, on or before the fourth Friday
6 immediately preceding a general election;

7 (6) on or before the second Friday immediately preceding a general
8 election; and

9 (7) on or before the second Tuesday after a general election.

10 (b) (1) A campaign finance entity is subject to subsection (a) of this section and
11 this subsection only as to the election in which the entity designates that it will participate.

12 (2) In addition to the campaign finance reports required under subsection
13 (a) of this section, but subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a campaign finance entity
14 shall file a campaign finance report on the third Wednesday in January.

15 (3) (i) If subsequent to the filing of its declaration under § 13-208(c)(3)
16 of this title, a campaign finance entity participates in an election in which it was not
17 designated to participate, the campaign finance entity shall file all campaign finance
18 reports prescribed under subsection (a) of this section for that election.

19 (ii) A violation of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph constitutes a
20 failure to file by the campaign finance entity, and the responsible officer is guilty of a
21 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to the penalties prescribed under Part VII of this
22 subtitle.

23 (4) If a campaign finance entity has neither a cash balance nor an
24 outstanding obligation at the end of a reporting period, a campaign finance report for that
25 period, clearly marked as “final”, shall be filed on or before the due date, and no further
26 report is required.

27 (c) In addition to the campaign finance reports required under subsection (a) of
28 this section, a continuing political committee shall file a campaign finance report on the
29 third Wednesday in January of each year the committee is in existence.

30 (d) An authorized candidate campaign committee of a candidate for election to
31 the central committee of a political party:

32 (1) shall file a campaign finance report on or before the third Tuesday after
33 a gubernatorial primary election; and

1 (2) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section and § 13–310 of this
2 subtitle, is not required to file any other campaign finance reports.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2015.