

HOUSE BILL 1087

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By: **Delegates Ali and Shewell**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2010

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foreign Corporation Campaign Disclaimer Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a business entity that publishes or distributes campaign
4 material and that is a subsidiary of a foreign-owned business entity to state
5 prominently in a certain size font certain information in a certain authority line;
6 requiring the authority line and certain information to be placed on the front of
7 campaign material under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and
8 generally relating to the identification of foreign-owned subsidiaries on
9 campaign material.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 13–401
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 13–401.

19 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each item of
20 campaign material shall contain, set apart from any other message, an authority line
21 that states:

22 (i) as to campaign material published or distributed by a
23 campaign finance entity:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1. the name and address of the treasurer of each
2 campaign finance entity responsible for the campaign material; and

3 2. as to each treasurer named under item 1 of this item,
4 the name of each campaign finance entity for which the treasurer is acting; and

5 (ii) as to campaign material published or distributed by any
6 other person, the name and address of the person responsible for the campaign
7 material.

8 (2) The authority line may omit an address that is on file with the
9 State Board or a local board.

10 (3) If the campaign material is too small to include all the information
11 specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection in a legible manner, the authority line
12 need only contain the name and title of the treasurer or other person responsible for it.

13 (4) The authority line for campaign material that is a commercial
14 advertisement need only contain the information specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
15 this subsection for one campaign finance entity or other person responsible for the
16 advertisement.

17 (b) Campaign material that is published or distributed in support of or in
18 opposition to a candidate, but is not authorized by the candidate, shall include the
19 following statement:

20 “This message has been authorized and paid for by (name of payor or any
21 organization affiliated with the payor), (name and title of treasurer or president). This
22 message has not been authorized or approved by any candidate.”

23 **(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “BUSINESS ENTITY” MEANS A**
24 **CORPORATION, GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY**
25 **COMPANY, OR A REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST.**

26 **(2) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT PUBLISHES OR DISTRIBUTES**
27 **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL IS A SUBSIDIARY OF A FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESS**
28 **ENTITY, THE SUBSIDIARY BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL STATE PROMINENTLY IN**
29 **ONE-INCH FONT IN THE AUTHORITY LINE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**
30 **THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: “PAID FOR BY A (THE NATIONAL**
31 **ORIGIN OF THE FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESS) COMPANY.”.**

32 **(3) IF THE CAMPAIGN MATERIAL IS PRINTED, THE AUTHORITY**
33 **LINE, INCLUDING THE STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
34 **SUBSECTION, SHALL BE PLACED ON THE FRONT OF THE CAMPAIGN MATERIAL.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 June 1, 2010.