

(d) The Department of Legislative Services and the State Board of Elections shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) The Commission shall:

(1) Collect information relating to the practice of public funding of election campaigns in other jurisdictions in the United States;

(2) Analyze current practices in Maryland relating to campaign contributions, funding, and activities; including:

(i) The nature and extent of campaign contributions for elections in Maryland by donors, including individuals, corporations, political committees, unions, and other persons or entities, and the characteristics of such donors;

(ii) The changes or trends in the total amount of contributions to candidates for elections in Maryland over the past several decades and the nature of such changes or trends, including but not limited to changes in the contribution patterns of any of the donors listed in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph;

(iii) The effectiveness of current Maryland election laws in maintaining confidence in the fairness and openness of elections, in preserving the democratic process, and in preventing undue influence or the appearance of undue influence by particular donors; and

(iv) The effect that the increasing need to raise substantial campaign contributions has on the ability of elected officials to perform their duties effectively and to serve the interests of all of their constituents equitably; ~~and~~

~~(v) The role and prevalence of "issue ads" and other independent expenditures under current Maryland election laws;~~

(3) Receive testimony as the Commission considers appropriate;

(4) Consider the effects of public funding of election campaigns, and if appropriate, make recommendations for implementing a system of public funding of statewide and legislative election campaigns in Maryland;

(5) Examine the State election code as it relates to changes needed to implement public funding of election campaigns; and

(6) On or before December 31, 2002, report its finding and recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes to the Maryland election laws, to the Governor, and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly for consideration by the General Assembly in the 2003 Session.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

May 16, 2002