

**[30-4.] 14-104. PENALTY; LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION OF TITLE; FIRST REPORT.**

(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully fails to comply with the requirements of this [subtitle] TITLE is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than [one] 1 year, or both. If the person is a business entity and not a natural person, each officer and partner of the business entity who knowingly authorized or participated in the violation is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is subject to the same penalties as the business entity.

(b) This [subtitle] TITLE shall be liberally construed to require full disclosure.

**TITLE 15. ~~PUBLIC FAIR CAMPAIGN~~ PUBLIC FINANCING ACT.****[31-1.] 15-101. PURPOSE.**

The General Assembly of Maryland, recognizing that our system of representative government depends in part on guaranteeing that election campaigns are funded by the people and for the people and on eliminating the corrupting and undemocratic effects of large private contributions, finds and declares that an equitable means of public campaign financing is necessary in these times for the continued effective functioning of representative democracy.

**[31-2.] 15-102. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) In this [subtitle] TITLE the following terms have the meanings indicated unless otherwise provided.

(b) "Candidate" means a Governor-Lieutenant Governor unit.

(c) "Comptroller" means the State Comptroller of the treasury.

(d) "Eligible candidate" means a candidate who has qualified to receive a public contribution.

(e) "Eligible private contribution" means that portion of a monetary or in kind campaign contribution, or series of contributions, from an individual that does not exceed \$250.

(f) "Fund" means the "Fair Campaign Financing Fund".

(g) "Public contribution" means a sum disbursed from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund to a candidate according to the provisions of this [subtitle] TITLE.

(h) "Seed money" means a sum of lawfully raised eligible private contributions that is 10 percent of the maximum campaign expenditure limit provided under [§ 31-3] § 15-103 OF THIS TITLE for an election.

(i) ["State Administrator" means the State Administrator of Election Laws.

(j) "State Board" means the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

(k) "Treasurer" includes a campaign subtreasurer.