



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 157
OPPOSE**

**Educ., Hlth.,
& Envir.
Affairs
Committee
2/26/09**

SB 157

Campaign Finance – Affiliated Business Entities – Attributions of Contributions

Bill Summary: This bill attributes campaign contributions from two or more business entities as a single contribution if: (1) one business entity is a wholly-owned subsidiary of another; or (2) the business entities are owned or controlled by at least 80 percent of the same individuals.

Chamber Position: The Maryland Chamber opposes this bill. We feel that the bill will be cumbersome, if not impossible to administer in attempting to identify entities with overlapping ownership among the millions of businesses across the country. The State Board of Elections is not staffed to enforce this bill.

More importantly, the bill restricts the ability of business owners to participate in political campaigns and places the business community at an unfair disadvantage relative to unions and nonprofit organizations.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber urges that this bill be given an unfavorable report.

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