

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 477 (Delegate M. Burns, et al.)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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General Assembly - Limit on Consecutive Terms

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This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that an individual may not serve more than three consecutive terms in the Senate or three consecutive terms in the House of Delegates beginning with the term of office starting in January 1999.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Expenditures could decrease as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** Membership in the legislative pension system is optional. Term limits may influence a legislator's decision to participate in the pension system. To the extent this occurs, State costs for the legislative pension system would be reduced. It is not possible to quantify the amount of the reduction, but it would not be substantial.

The Maryland Constitution requires bills that propose amendments to the Constitution be publicized in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding a general election. The costs associated with these requirements are borne by the State. Any additional expenditures would be minimal and could be absorbed within the State Board of Election Laws' budget.

**Local Expenditures:** If approved by the General Assembly, this constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at the 1996 general election. It should not require additional costs for the county election boards to administer the election.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Retirement Agency, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 1996

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