

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 398 (Delegate Gordon, et al.)
Judiciary

State’s Attorneys, Registers of Wills, Clerks of Court, and Sheriffs - Appointment to Fill Vacancy

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment changing the process for filling vacancies in the offices of State’s Attorney, Register of Wills, Clerk of Court, and Sheriff. A person appointed to fill a vacancy in one of these offices must be from a list provided by a county central committee or the Baltimore City central committee of a party which the vacating person was affiliated. If the vacating person was not affiliated with any political party, an individual of any party affiliation may be appointed. The bill also requires that these appointments be subject to the advice and consent of the General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal effect on general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed 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 Administrative Board of Election Laws’ budget.

The changes in the procedures for filling vacancies would not affect State finances.

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.

The changes in the procedures for filling vacancies would not affect county finances.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Register of Wills, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1996

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