

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 990 (Delegate Gordon)

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Criminal Violations - Statute of Limitations

This bill provides that a prosecution for the commission of or the attempt to commit a misdemeanor violation of the State election laws must be instituted within three years after the offense was committed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly impact State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill would not significantly impact State operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A prosecution for a misdemeanor violation of the election laws must be instituted within two years after the offense was committed. A prosecution to impose a civil fine for violation of the election laws must be instituted within three years after the offense was committed.

The Office of the State Prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting election law violations.

State Fiscal Effect: The Office of the State Prosecutor advises that sometimes election law violations cannot be prosecuted because the violation does not come to light until after the statute of limitations has run.

It is expected that any additional prosecutions that would result from the bill could be handled by the Office of the State Prosecutor using existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the State Prosecutor, State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 20, 2000

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