

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 889
Ways and Means

(Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)

Election Law - Prince George's County - Democratic Party Central Committee

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Democratic Party Central Committee to increase its membership by adding two members selected by the Prince George's County Young Democrats.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Prince George's County Board of Elections could implement the bill's requirements using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A principal political party elects members of a county central committee at a primary election. State law provides that the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee consists of 23 members. Two members must reside in and be elected by the eligible voters of each of the eight legislative districts lying within Prince George's County. At least one member must reside in each single member or two-member delegate district. In addition, seven members are elected countywide, and at the time of the election must reside in a different one of the seven legislative districts within Prince George's County in which a majority of voters reside.

Background: Five counties and Baltimore City currently elect members of local Democratic central committees by State legislative, local councilmanic, or commissioner districts. Eighteen counties have committees comprised of members elected at-large.

Additional Comments: The change to the Prince George's County Central Committee proposed by the bill is ambiguous. State law expressly states that the Prince George's County Central Committee consists of 23 members; however, the bill's provisions appear to contemplate that a 24-member committee already exists.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 788 (Senators Lawlah and Exum) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2005
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510