

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Special Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 7
Budget and Taxation

(Senator Harris)

Maryland Taxpayer Protection Act

This constitutional amendment proposes that any bill increasing the rate of an existing tax or imposing a new tax be approved by at least two-thirds of each house of the General Assembly in order to become law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: If adopted, potential significant foregone general fund and special fund revenues. This impact would vary by year, and the result cannot be reliably estimated.

Local Effect: If adopted, potential significant foregone local revenues. This impact would vary by year, and the result cannot be reliably estimated.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

State Fiscal Effect: The actual effect on State revenues cannot be estimated and would vary each year depending on the restriction specified in the bill. State revenues could be impacted to the extent the bill restricts the ability to enact future tax legislation and cannot be reliably estimated.

Local Fiscal Effect: The actual effect on local revenues cannot be estimated and would vary each year depending on the restriction specified in the bill. Local revenues could be

impacted to the extent the bill restricts the ability to enact future tax legislation that impacts local revenues and cannot be reliably estimated.

The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed amendments to the constitution be publicized either: (1) 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 the general election; or (2) by order of the Governor in a manner provided by law. State law requires local boards of elections to publicize proposed amendments to the constitution either in newspapers or on specimen ballots; local boards of elections are responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. It is anticipated that the fiscal 2009 budgets of local election boards will contain funding for notifying qualified voters about proposed constitutional amendments for the 2008 general election in newspapers or on specimen ballots.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - November 1, 2007
mcp/hlb

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