

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1361 (Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

General Assembly - Cosponsors of Legislation - Notification of Alterations

This bill requires a committee of the General Assembly to notify the primary sponsor of a bill when the bill has been amended by the committee and to disclose the content of the amendment. The notification must be made at least 24 hours before the bill and committee amendments are reported to the floor of the House of Delegates or Senate. Upon receiving notification from the committee, the primary sponsor must notify each cosponsor of the bill that the bill has been amended and disclose the content of the amendment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase for the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) by \$150,000 in FY 2011; \$100,000 represents one-time costs needed to develop an automated notification system and \$50,000 represents ongoing expenditures for additional clerical support to operate the system once it is developed. The bill's requirement may create operational difficulties for legislative committees by delaying the time period by which committee reports are brought to the floor.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: House and Senate rules require that a committee report a bill or resolution on which the committee has taken final action to the floor of the respective chamber within three legislative days of taking final action. Amendments to a bill must

be attached to the bill reported to the floor. Current law and chamber rules do not address notification of sponsors when a committee amends a bill.

Background: The General Assembly has 10 standing committees that hear and act on bills: 6 in the House of Delegates and 4 in the Senate. DLS reports that, on average, it processes about 500 amendments for House committee reports to the floor annually and about 400 amendments for Senate committee reports to the floor.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2010
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