

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1454

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Task Force to Study the Terms, Pay, Operations, and Ethical Standards for  
Various Elected Officials in Prince George's County**  
**PG 422-13**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Terms, Pay, Operations, and Ethical Standards for Various Elected Officials in Prince George's County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, and terminates December 31, 2013.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill specifies that the task force must focus on various elected officials including the county executive, county council, State's Attorney, county sheriff, clerk of the circuit court, and register of wills. Issues the task force must study and make recommendations on include:

- methods to improve accountability, transparency, and oversight for officials;
- criteria for establishing and measuring office outcomes;
- criteria for comparing effectiveness of local elected officials to comparable elected officials in neighboring jurisdictions; and

- any other relevant issues.

The task force must hold at least three public meetings in geographically diverse areas of Prince George's County that allow members of the general public and stakeholder organizations to testify on issues being studied by the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Senate Delegation and House Delegation by November 1, 2013.

The task force is staffed by the Prince George's County Senate Delegation and House Delegation staff. A member of the task force may not receive compensation.

**Current Law/Background:** The county executive, county council, State's Attorney, sheriff, clerk of the circuit court, and register of wills in Prince George's County are elected to four-year terms. The pay of the county executive and county council is determined by recommendation of a compensation review board, subject to amendment by two-thirds vote of the county council, effective for the following term. The salaries of the State's Attorney and sheriff are established by the General Assembly, and the salary of a clerk of the circuit court and a register of wills is established by the Board of Public Works, pursuant to requirements set forth by the General Assembly. The county executive and county council in Prince George's County are subject to the Prince George's County Code of Ethics and State's Attorneys, sheriffs, clerks of the circuit court, and registers of wills are subject to the Maryland Public Ethics Law established by the General Assembly.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2013  
mc/kdm Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2013

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