

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 582 (Senator Stone, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Redistricting Ballot Questions - Map of Proposed Districts

This bill requires a statement included in a notice provided by local boards of elections to voters summarizing an upcoming ballot question that relates to congressional redistricting to include the address of a website where a voter may view a map of the boundaries of the proposed districts. In addition, if there is a question on the ballot that relates to congressional redistricting, a map of the boundaries of the proposed districts must be posted at polling places.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A local board of elections must provide notice of each ballot question in a general election either by specimen ballot mailed at least one week before the general election or by publication or dissemination by mass communication during the three weeks immediately preceding the general election. For a ballot question that is a constitutional amendment or a State law referendum, the notice must include, among other information, a brief statement, prepared in clear and concise language, without technical and legal terms to the extent practicable, summarizing the question.

The State Board of Elections, in consultation with the election directors of the local boards of elections, must specify and produce various information materials to be posted in each polling place by election judges before the polls open.

Background: Redistricting occurs every 10 years following the U.S. decennial census. Maryland's most recent congressional districting plan was enacted under Chapter 1 of the 2011 special session and the most recent legislative districting plan was adopted under Joint Resolutions 1 and 2 of 2012. Chapter 1 of the 2011 special session was petitioned to referendum and approved by the voters at the 2012 general election.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1327 (Delegate George, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2014
ncs/hlb

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