

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 930 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Prince George's County - Board of License Commissioners - Membership
PG 315-15

This bill alters provisions specific to the appointment and membership of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners and the appointment processes.

The bill generally takes effect July 1, 2015. Specified provisions take effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$68,000 annually beginning in FY 2016 to provide stipends to the new commissioners. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill expands the membership of the board from five to nine members. Eight of the nine commissioners must be from the political party obtaining the highest number of votes in the last gubernatorial general election in the county, and one commissioner must be from the political party obtaining the next highest number of votes in the county election. No more than eight commissioners may belong to the same political party.

The Governor must appoint at least one commissioner from each legislative district in the county. Each central committee must designate each commissioner serving on

June 30, 2015, as an eligible candidate, unless two or more commissioners reside in the same legislative district, in which case the central committee must designate only one commissioner as an eligible candidate from that legislative district. The central committees representing each of the two leading political parties of the State may submit their list of eligible candidates for commissioner to the Governor on or after June 1, 2015. All of the other provisions of the bill take effect July 1, 2015.

The term of a commissioner remains at three years, and the terms of the commissioners are staggered as provided in the bill.

Current Law: In Prince George's County, the Board of License Commissioners consists of five members. The Governor must appoint four of the five commissioners from the political party obtaining the highest number of votes in the last gubernatorial general election in the county, and appoint one commissioner from the political party obtaining the next highest number of votes in the county election.

Before making the appointments or filling any vacancy, the Governor must request the central committees for Prince George's County representing each of the two leading political parties of the State to designate at least four eligible candidates for each position. The Governor must appoint one of the persons so designated unless, in the Governor's judgment, all of the persons are unfit or incompetent, in which case a written statement to that effect must be filed with the Secretary of State. The statement must set forth the facts and the grounds for the judgment. The committees for Prince George's County are then called upon for another list of six names for each position to be filled, from which list and the original list the appointments must be made.

The term of a member is three years. The terms of the members are staggered. No more than four of the appointees may belong to the same political party.

Local Fiscal Impact: Beginning in fiscal 2016, Prince George's County incurs a \$68,000 increase in annual expenditures due to an additional \$17,000 in stipend expenses for each new commissioner.

Additional Comments: The bill does not address what happens in the event future State redistricting impacts the number of legislative districts in Prince George's County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1022 of 2014, which included the bill's provisions, among others, passed the House with amendments and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. No further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2015
min/lgc

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