

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 259 (Senator Jennings)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Election Law - Deadline Date for Withdrawal of Certificate of Candidacy**

---

This bill increases the number of days after the certificate of candidacy filing date within which an individual who has filed a certificate of candidacy may withdraw the candidacy, from two to seven days.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by less than \$3,000 in FY 2016 and future fiscal years in which a primary election is held. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** An individual who has filed a certificate of candidacy may withdraw the candidacy by filing a certificate of withdrawal on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections (SBE) within two days after the certificate of candidacy filing date. In a gubernatorial election year, a certificate of candidacy must be filed by the last Tuesday in February. For any other regularly scheduled election, a certificate of candidacy must be filed by the Wednesday that is 83 days before the primary election date. For a primary election, SBE must certify the content and arrangement of each ballot within 11 days of the certificate of candidacy filing date.

The time period after the certificate of candidacy filing date within which an individual may file a certificate of withdrawal was last modified by Chapter 169 of 2011, when it was reduced from 10 days to 2 days after the certificate of candidacy filing date.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by less than \$3,000 in fiscal 2016 and future fiscal years in which a primary election is held, for increased ballot programming costs for SBE to program ballots within a compressed time period prior to the deadline for certification of ballots.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections; Harford, Washington, and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2015  
mel/hlb

---

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510