

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 628 (Senator Hershey)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Assembly Standing Committees - Recorded Votes and Written Testimony

This bill requires any standing committee of the General Assembly to deliver the recorded committee vote on a bill or resolution, along with any related written testimony, to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) before the bill or resolution is reported to the floor. DLS must make available all recorded standing committee votes and any written testimony related to a bill or resolution to each member of the corresponding house, and within 10 days of a voting session to the public via the General Assembly website. The recorded votes and testimony must be linked to the corresponding bill or resolution online and retained as a permanent public record.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$230,800 in FY 2017 for DLS to scan and upload written testimony on the General Assembly website. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	230,800	195,200	202,100	209,200	216,700
Net Effect	(\$230,800)	(\$195,200)	(\$202,100)	(\$209,200)	(\$216,700)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Both Senate and House rules require the final committee vote on any bill or resolution to be recorded by individual member and delivered to DLS prior to the reporting of the bill or resolution to their respective chambers and be maintained as a permanent public record. Senate rules also require DLS to make recorded committee votes available to the public on the Internet within 10 days.

The Open Meetings Act requires that as soon as practicable after a public body meets, it must prepare written minutes of its session. In general, the minutes must reflect each item that the public body considered, the action that the public body took on each item, and each vote that was recorded. Written minutes are not required if live or archived video or audio of the open session is available or if the individual votes of each public body member are posted promptly on the Internet.

Standing committee votes are published on the General Assembly website after a bill is reported out of a standing committee. Written testimony is not normally available online; for each legislative session, standing committees receive thousands of pages of written testimony on the bills they hear.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$230,770 beginning in fiscal 2017, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2016 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time information technology specialist to implement the document uploading requirements under the bill. It also includes 10 part-time contractual employees to collect, organize, and scan all written testimony received by each standing committee. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs (including costs to purchase scanning equipment), and ongoing operating expenses.

Regular Position	1
Contractual Session (Part-time) Positions	10
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$173,805
Additional Equipment	50,493
Other Operating Expenses	<u>6,472</u>
Total FY 2017 State Expenditures	\$230,770

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2016
kb/mcr

Analysis by: Michelle Davis

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