

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 842 (Senator Ready, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Voter Registration Integrity Act of 2017

This bill requires that information concerning individuals who are not U.S. citizens be provided by a jury commissioner to the State Board of Elections (SBE) within five days of receiving the information. The bill also establishes actions to be taken by the State Administrator of Elections upon receipt of that information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill modifies an existing requirement relating to rules adopted by the Court of Appeals concerning the disclosure of jury information to SBE. Specifically, the bill requires that a jury commissioner provide information concerning individuals who are not U.S. citizens to SBE within five days of receiving the information.

The State Administrator of Elections must make arrangements with the jury commissioner of the circuit court for each county to receive reports of the names and addresses of individuals who were summoned as prospective jurors and indicated that they are not U.S. citizens. The State Administrator must (1) maintain a list of such individuals; (2) direct the appropriate election director to remove an individual included on the list from the statewide voter registration list; (3) provide a copy of the list to the Office of the U.S. Attorney for prosecution under federal law for fraudulently registering to vote; and

(4) publish annually on the SBE website the number of such individuals who have been removed from the statewide voter registration list.

Current Law: Access to information about prospective, qualified, and sworn jurors may be allowed only in accordance with rules adopted by the Court of Appeals. The rules must provide for disclosure of information to SBE as to individuals who have died, have moved, or are not U.S. citizens.

SBE regulations address the confidentiality of juror information received from a jury commissioner and include steps to be taken to remove from the statewide voter registration list individuals reported in the information to not be U.S. citizens.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1354 (Delegates Shoemaker and Rose) - Judiciary and Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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md/hlb

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