

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 348 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Ways and Means

Montgomery County - Staggered Election Terms for Members of the County Council
MC 4-17

This constitutional amendment allows for the Montgomery County Council to enact legislation to stagger the terms of office of the members of the county council, with some members elected at the gubernatorial general election and some members elected at the presidential general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially impact State finances. It is assumed that the potential for increased costs to include any constitutional amendments proposed by the General Assembly on the ballot at the next general election will have been anticipated in the State Board of Elections' (SBE) budget irrespective of this bill. If the constitutional amendment is approved and the Montgomery County Council enacts legislation to stagger the terms of county council members, the bill will have an operational impact on SBE but is not expected to have a material fiscal impact.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially impact local government finances. It is assumed that the potential for increased costs to notify voters of any constitutional amendments proposed by the General Assembly, and to include any proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot at the next general election, will have been anticipated in local boards of elections' budgets irrespective of this bill. If the constitutional amendment is approved and the Montgomery County Council enacts legislation to stagger the terms of county council members, the bill will have an operational impact on the Montgomery County Board of Elections but is not expected to have a material fiscal impact.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Under Article XVII of the Maryland Constitution, with certain exceptions, State and county officers are elected every four years during the gubernatorial elections. An exception was created in 2000 for Cecil County, which currently elects its council members and county executive to four-year terms but elects two council members and the county executive during the presidential elections and three council members during the gubernatorial elections. Additional exceptions exist for elective local boards of education and for county council and county executive vacancies filled by special election in charter counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2017
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