

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 58 (Senator Ellis)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Membership

This bill alters the membership of local boards of elections by replacing current requirements that specified numbers of members be of the majority party with requirements that those same specified numbers of members instead be registered members of the political party with the largest number of registered voters in the county. Correspondingly, the bill replaces requirements that specified numbers of members be of the principal minority party with requirements that those same specified numbers of members instead be registered members of the political party with the second largest number of registered voters in the county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, each local board of elections consists of five regular members. Three members must be of the majority party, and two members must be of the principal minority party. The board of elections in Montgomery County consists of five regular members and two substitute members. Three regular members and one substitute member must be of the majority party, and two regular members and one substitute member must be of the principal minority party. The board of elections in Prince George’s County consists of five regular members and

three substitute members. Four regular members and two substitute members must be of the majority party, and one regular member and one substitute member must be of the principal minority party.

“Majority party” means the political party of the incumbent Governor or, if the incumbent Governor is not a member of one of the two principal political parties, the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election. “Principal minority party” means the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the second highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties; Department of Legislative Services

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