

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 80

(Delegate Boyce)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Election Law - Party and Elected Public Offices - Prohibition**

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This bill establishes that an individual may not (1) simultaneously be a candidate for a party office and an elected public office or (2) simultaneously hold a party office and an elected public office. The bill establishes, however, that these provisions do not apply to an individual who simultaneously holds an elected public office and (1) is on the ballot for the national presidential nominating convention or (2) holds the office of delegate to the national presidential nominating convention. “Party office” means the office of member of a county central committee of a political party. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2025.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Simultaneous Candidacy*

Unless otherwise prohibited by rule of the applicable political party, an individual simultaneously may be a candidate for a political party office and a public office. An individual, however, may not simultaneously be a candidate for more than one public office or more than one political party office.

### *Qualifications for Candidacy*

An individual may become a candidate for a public or party office only if the individual satisfies the qualifications for that office established by law and, in the case of a party office, by party constitution or bylaws.

### *Political Party Governance*

Each political party must have a State central committee that is the governing body of the political party and may be composed of the members of the central committees of the counties during their terms in office. A principal political party must elect the members of a county central committee at a primary election.

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## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 742 of 2023; HB 160 of 2022; and HB 335 of 2021.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 812 (Senator Ellis) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2024  
km/sdk Third Reader - March 18, 2024  
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