

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 515 (Senator A. Washington)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Elections - Voter Registration Age - Alteration

This bill lowers the age at which an individual may register to vote, from age 16 to age 15 and 9 months. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Elections can implement the bill's changes with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under State law, with certain exceptions, an individual may register to vote if the individual is a citizen of the United States, is at least age 16, and is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to register.

However, an individual under the age of 18 who is registered to vote may not vote except in a primary election in which candidates are nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least age 18.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2024
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