Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 41 (Delegate Leopold)
Commerce and Government Matters

Gubernatorial Term - Commencement

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to change the date on which the Governor's term of office commences from the third to the first Wednesday of January following the election, unless that day is January 1, in which case the term of office would begin on the first Thursday of January.

Furthermore, the amendment repeals the requirement that the election returns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor be sent to the Speaker of the House of Delegates at the beginning of the legislative session and that the Speaker open and count the votes thereby prescribing who will fill the two offices.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maryland is to be submitted to the voters of Maryland at the next general election in November 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal effect on general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Maryland Constitution requires bills that propose amendments to the Constitution be publicized in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding a general election. The costs associated with these requirements are borne by the state. Any additional expenditures would be minimal and could be absorbed within the State Board of Election Laws' budget.

Local Expenditures: If approved by the General Assembly, the constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at the 1996 general election. It should not require additional costs for the county election boards to administer the election.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Governor's Office, State Administrative Board of Election Laws

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 1996
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