

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 91 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - State Board of Elections)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Elections - Write-in Candidates**

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This departmental bill changes the deadline by which a write-in candidate must file a certificate of candidacy from 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the election to 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the election.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** County expenditures could decrease by an indeterminate minimal amount as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** The State Administrative Board of Election Laws has determined that this bill has no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** County governments could experience a minimal cost savings due to the longer time period for local elections boards to add write-in candidates' names to the ballots. With the expanded time, local elections boards may not need to hire as many part-time employees to perform this task. The amount of savings would depend upon the number of write-in candidates and the number of part-time employees who would be no longer needed to add the names to the ballots. Any cost savings cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

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**Information Source(s):** State Administrative Board of Election Laws; Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Baltimore City; Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 1996

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