HB 432

Department of Fiscal Services

Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 432 (Delegate Bozman)
Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Voting Systems - Ballots Not Voted

This bill requires that electronic voting systems certified by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL) automatically accept and count a ballot that a voter has intentionally left blank without the system being reprogrammed, reset, or adjusted by an election judge.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Currently, there are 17 counties that use electronic voting systems. If a county has a system that does not automatically accept and count a ballot that was left blank, county expenditures could increase due to additional programming costs. The cost would depend upon the number of voting systems and the level of programming needed to bring the systems into compliance with the bill's requirements. Although the costs cannot be determined beforehand, they are assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Department of Fiscal Services

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