

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 653 (Delegate Getty)
Commerce & Government Matters Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

Election Laws - Recounts

This amended bill authorizes recounts in general and special elections. Currently, recounts may only be petitioned in primary elections. Within ten days after the general or special election, or within two days after the results of the canvass are declared official, a candidate who was defeated may petition a local elections board(s) for a recount.

A petition for a recount of an election for a statewide office, or other multiple jurisdictional office, may be filed in one or more counties simultaneously or with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL). For a petition filed with SABEL, the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court must determine and set the bond and SABEL must coordinate the recounts by the local elections boards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in costs associated with receiving petitions and coordinating the recounts by local elections boards would be minimal. It is assumed that SABEL could absorb these costs with existing resources.

Local Effect: County and Baltimore City revenues and expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: A candidate who petitions a local elections board(s) for a recount is generally responsible for paying the costs of the recount and recanvass. A local elections board, however, is responsible for the costs if the election result is changed or if the petitioner receives additional votes equal to at least 2% of the total number of votes cast in the area being recounted. Any revenue and/or expenditure increase would depend upon the number

of recounts, the cost of a recount, and the outcome of the recount. At this time, any such increase cannot be reliably estimated.

The Anne Arundel County Circuit Court could set a bond for a petitioner with existing resources.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 1996
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Analysis by: Thomas Himler

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710