

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 783 (Delegate Poole)
Commerce and Government Matters

**General Assembly Compensation Commission Resolution - Approval by Majority
Vote of the Senate and House of Delegates**

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to require that the Senate and the House of Delegates approve the resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission in order for the provisions relating to salaries, expenses, and retirement to take effect.

This constitutional amendment would not take effect unless approved at the 1996 general election and would be applicable to the resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission submitted at the 1998 session.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This change in procedure with respect to the resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission could result in a lesser rate of expenditures for the legislative budget with respect to salaries, expenses, and retirement benefits. It is not possible to quantify the potential impact.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: This constitutional amendment changes the procedure by which the resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission takes effect. Under current law the changes in salaries, expenses, and retirement proposed by the commission take effect unless the General Assembly by joint resolution reduces any of the recommendations. This constitutional amendment requires that the General Assembly approve the changes in order for the changes in salaries, expenses, and retirement to take effect. There is no basis to determine the action that the General Assembly would take with respect to the commission's

recommendations, but it is assumed that at times the General Assembly would reduce the amount of salaries, expenses, and retirement proposed by the commission. This would result in a reduced level of expenditures in the legislative budget. There would be no impact until fiscal 1999 as the next commission recommendation will be submitted at the 1998 legislative session. The current level of funding of salaries, expenses, and retirement for legislators is \$8.6 million.

The Maryland Constitution requires bills that propose amendments to the Constitution be published 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 paid by the State. The budget of the State Board of Elections for fiscal 1997 contains funding for publishing constitutional amendments.

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

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 1996
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