

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 34 (Delegate Arnick)
Commerce and Government Matters

Lieutenant Governor - Abolition of Office

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could decrease by \$198,900 in FY 1999. Future year decreases reflect annualization and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	0	0	(198,900)	(407,600)	(417,700)
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$198,900	\$407,600	\$417,700

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Department of Fiscal Services (DFS) assumes that adoption of this amendment would eliminate the position of Lieutenant Governor (\$100,000 annual salary) and, concomitantly, two executive aide positions (\$83,987 and \$58,190 projected for fiscal 1999), and one executive assistant (\$51,910 projected for fiscal 1999). If this proposed amendment is submitted to the voters in November 1996 and passes, the sitting Lieutenant Governor would serve out the remainder of the current term ending in January 1999. Accordingly, general fund savings would not be realized until that time, and would yield a savings of \$199,928 for half of fiscal 1999. This estimate is a projection drawn from the Governor's fiscal 1997 allowance for salaries, fringe benefits, and attendant operating expenses for the Lieutenant Governor and her staff. Out-year savings reflect full salaries, fringe benefits, and expenses as anticipated in current budget projections.

Any additional budgetary changes or structural modifications attendant to the performance of the delegated duties of the Lieutenant Governor, including any reassignments of continuing programs' component expenses, would be handled in the normal budgetary process for fiscal 1999.

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, this 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): Governor's Office, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 1996

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