

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1014 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Commerce and Government Matters

Prince George's County - Special Elections
PG 400-96

This bill requires the Prince George's County Council to adopt a resolution calling for a special election if a vacancy occurs on the county council. A special election is to be held on any Tuesday that is between 40 and 60 days after the adoption of the resolution.

If a vacancy occurs within 90 days before a primary or general election in which county council members are elected, the vacant office remains open until it is filled at the next regular election. If a vacancy occurs, however, between the primary and general elections and there is only one candidate for the position in the general election, the candidate must be appointed immediately to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Except as described above, if a vacancy occurs within six months before the end of a term, a person must be appointed to fill the vacancy in accordance with procedures established by the county.

This bill also authorizes the General Assembly to provide for special elections of certain vacant offices in charter counties.

The bill is effective June 1, 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures could increase by an indeterminate significant amount, while revenues could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Revenues: If Prince George's County conducts a special election for a vacancy on the county council, county revenues would increase due to filing fees paid by candidates. Although the revenue increase cannot be determined beforehand, the amount would be minimal.

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County expenditures would also increase if the county conducts a special election. Although the number of special elections cannot be determined beforehand, the cost of conducting a special election would be significant. A special primary and general election in the county costs approximately \$100,000 due to personnel and printing costs. Personnel costs include compensation of election judges and voting machine technicians, while printing costs include ballot preparation costs.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 1996

ncs

Analysis by: Thomas Himler

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710