

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 684 (Senator Young, et al.)
Judicial Proceedings

Judicial Nominating Commissions

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to establish a 17-member judicial nominating commission for appellate courts and 16 separate 13-member trial court nominating commissions in the Executive Department. The Governor is required to fill judicial vacancies from lists provided by the commissions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Each nominating commission is charged with investigating persons nominated to fill a judicial vacancy and submitting a list of nominees to the Governor. Assuming that members of the various commissions would be entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel requirements, general fund expenditures could increase, depending upon the number of judicial vacancies and the number of investigations undertaken. It is assumed that any staffing or other needs (e.g., meeting space and supplies) would be provided by the Executive Department without the need for additional expenditures.

The amendment requires that some clerical function be provided to the commission by the Administration Office of the Courts. These tasks could be carried out with existing budgeted resources.

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): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Executive Department, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 1996

ncs

Analysis by: Robert C. Bates
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710