

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 666 (Senator Green) (Chairman, Prince George's County Delegation)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Charter Counties - Vacancies - Special Elections**

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This bill authorizes a charter county to conduct a special election to fill a vacancy in the county council that occurs by death, resignation, or forfeiture of office. The charter counties are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico. If a special election is authorized, a local elections board must conduct the election in accordance with the charter's provisions. The board may also adopt regulations as necessary to conduct the special election.

The passage of this bill is contingent on the passage and ratification of SB 524 of 1996, a constitutional amendment.

The bill is effective January 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any assistance provided by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Charter county expenditures could increase by an indeterminate, significant amount as discussed below. Revenues could increase by an indeterminate, minimal amount due to additional filing fees.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** If a charter county holds a special election to fill a vacancy in the county council, expenditures would increase depending upon the number of candidates and the number of elections (i.e., primary or general election, or both). This information is not currently available. Any expenditure increase could be significant and would vary by

jurisdiction.

Talbot County advises that each special election could cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Similarly, Prince George's County estimates that each special election would cost approximately \$59,000.

If a special election is held, charter county revenues could increase by a minimal amount due to additional candidate filing fees.

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**Information Source(s):** State Administrative Board of Election Laws; Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Talbot counties; Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 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