

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 120 (Delegates M. Burns and Rzepkowski)
Commerce and Government Matters

General Assembly - Limit on Consecutive Terms

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that an individual may not serve more than three consecutive terms in the Senate or three consecutive terms in the House of Delegates beginning with the term of office starting in January 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expenditures could decrease as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Membership in the legislative pension system is optional. Term limits may influence a legislator's decision to participate in the pension system. To the extent this occurs, State costs for the legislative pension system would be reduced. It is not possible to quantify the amount of the reduction, but it would not be substantial.

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. It is anticipated that the budget for the State Board of Elections for fiscal 1999 will contain funding for publishing constitutional amendments for the 1998 general election.

Local Expenditures: If approved by the General Assembly, this constitutional amendment

will be submitted to the voters at the 1998 general election. It should not require additional costs for the county election boards to administer the election.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Retirement Agency, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 1997

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