

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1170 (Carroll County Delegation)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Carroll County - Board of County Commissioners - Composition**

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This bill increases from three to five the number of members of the Carroll County Board of County Commissioners. The commissioners must be elected at large. Before the bill is legally effective, it must be approved by the voters of the county at the November 1998 general election, or if a county-wide special election is held prior to the November 1998 general election, at that special election. The bill's provisions and the results of any election held concerning these provisions are void if the county adopts home rule.

The bill does not apply to county commissioners in office on June 1, 1997. If the voters approve of the increase in the number of commissioners at a special election on or before June 1, 1998, the two new county commissioners will be elected at the November 1998 general election. Absent a special election, if the voters approve of the increase at the November 1998 general election, the two new commissioners will be elected at the November 2002 general election. If the proposed increase is rejected, the bill's provisions are null and void.

The bill is effective June 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** If the voters of Carroll County approve of the increase in membership, expenditures could increase by \$89,100 in the year of election, either in FY 1999 or FY 2003, including one-time equipment costs. Future increases would reflect annualization and inflation, and no equipment costs. Revenues would not be affected.

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

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## **Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** If the voters approve the increase in the number of Carroll County Commissioners at the next special or general election, county expenditures would increase by \$89,135 in the year of election, either in fiscal 1999 or fiscal 2003. If the voters approve of the increase at a special election held on or before June 1, 1998, the two new commissioners will be elected at the November 1998 general election. Thus, expenditures would increase starting in fiscal 1999. Absent a special election, if the voters approve of the increase at the November 1998 general election, the two new commissioners will be elected at the November 2002 general election. As a result, expenditures would increase starting in fiscal 2003. The expenditure increase reflects the salaries (\$59,100) and fringe benefits at 35% of salaries for the two new county commissioners and their two secretaries, and operating costs (\$9,350), including one-time computer purchases, for six months. Annualized, expenditures would increase by approximately \$172,270, reflecting salaries, fringe benefits, and operating costs for a full-year, and no computer purchases.

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**Information Source(s):** Carroll County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 1997

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