

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 432 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Commerce and Government Matters

Prince George's County - Elections - Absentee Ballots -
Removal of Eligibility Requirements

PG 436-97

This bill allows any registered voter in Prince George's County to vote by absentee ballot regardless of the reason, if the voter completes the necessary application.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate, but potentially significant effect on Prince George's County expenditures. No effect on revenues.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: There are approximately 334,000 registered voters in Prince George's County. Generally, the county has a voter turnout of approximately 50%. In addition, the county usually has between 9,000 and 10,000 absentee voters. Under the bill, any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot upon completion of the necessary application. To the extent that this leads to an increase in absentee ballots, expenditures could increase due to additional postage, printing, and temporary personnel costs. At this time, the actual expenditure increase cannot be determined. However, for illustrative purposes, if Prince George's County had 30,000 absentee voters, the county estimates that it would cost an additional \$121,700 per election. This estimate reflects postage, printing, equipment, and temporary personnel costs associated with 20,000 additional absentee voters.

At this time, the number of additional absentee voters cannot be determined. However, if absentee voters increase significantly, it is assumed that at some point the county would have

to alter its existing precinct voting system to compensate for the increase. As a result, any additional costs associated with an increase in absentee ballots could be partially offset by a savings due to a reduction in the scope of precinct elections.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1997

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