

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 517 (Delegate Dembrow, *et al.*)
Judiciary

Montgomery and Harford Counties - Retired Judges - Assignment to Orphans' Court

This bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland authorizing the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to assign a retired judge of the circuit courts for Montgomery County and Harford County to do an act that a judge of the orphans' court for those respective counties is authorized to perform. Under the Constitution, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may recall a former judge to sit temporarily in any court of the State except an orphan's court. In Montgomery and Harford counties, active circuit court judges currently sit as orphan's court judges. These counties do not have separate orphan's court judges. This amendment would allow the Chief Judge to assign a retired circuit court judge to sit as an orphan's court judge in those counties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed 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 of 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): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1997
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