

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 468 (Senator Craig)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Election Laws - Ballot Access**

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This bill decreases the minimum number of signatures of registered voters required to have the name of a candidate seeking nomination by petition for a statewide office on the ballot from 3% of the registered voters to 1%.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any increase in the number of candidates filing for election could be handled with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws' existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. Any increase in the number of signatures needing verification could be handled with local elections boards' existing resources. Similarly, any costs associated with an increase in the number of candidates' names placed on ballots could be handled with existing resources. Any new filing fees are assumed to be negligible.

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

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**Information Source(s):** State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 1997  
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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