

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 289 (Senator Kelley)
Judicial Proceedings

Notaries Public - Alternative Application Procedure for Appointment

This bill establishes an alternative procedure for the appointment of notaries public. Under the alternative procedure, written approval of the senator representing the senatorial district and subdistrict in which the applicant resides is not required. Instead, applicants will make their application directly to the Secretary of State. The alternative procedure may be chosen by a senator, in lieu of the current procedure, if notice is received by the Secretary of State within 30 days of the senator's swearing in. The notice is effective only for the term of office in which the senator makes the election to use the alternative procedure.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in expenditures by the Secretary of State as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and would not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Because this legislation is enabling, any increase in expenditures would depend on how many senator's opt to use the alternative application procedure. Responsibilities associated with approving notary public applications include verifying drivers' licenses, performing criminal background checks, and otherwise ensuring that applicants are upstanding citizens. For illustrative purposes only, if every senator elected to use the alternative procedure, the Secretary of State would need to hire one Secretary II at a cost of about \$34,000 annually (includes salary, fringe benefits, and attendant operating expenses) to handle the additional workload for the approximately 10,800 new notary applications per year.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 1997

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