

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 160 (Delegate M. Burns. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

General Assembly - Limit on Consecutive Terms

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that an individual may not serve more than three consecutive terms in the Senate or three consecutive terms in the House of Delegates beginning with the term of office starting in January 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expenditures could decrease as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Membership in the legislative pension system is optional. Term limits may influence a legislator's decision to participate in the pension system. To the extent this occurs, State costs for the legislative pension system would be reduced. It is not possible to quantify the amount of the reduction, but it would not be substantial.

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. The fiscal 1999 budget of the State Board of Elections contains 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): Maryland State Retirement Agency, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 1998

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