

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 121 (Delegates Arnick and Gettv)
(Commission to Revise the Election Code)
Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Close of Registration

This bill extends the period of time in which a person may become a registered voter in two phases. Currently, voter registration is closed between 9 p.m. on the 5th Monday preceding any primary election, special primary election, general election, or special election and the 11th day after that election. Under this bill, beginning with the primary election in 2000, registration is closed between 9 p.m. on the 24th day preceding the election and the 11th day after that election, which provides five additional days for a person to register to vote. For the primary election in 2002, and for any subsequent election, registration is closed between 9 p.m. on the 21st day preceding an election and the 11th day after the election, which provides approximately two additional weeks for a person to register to vote.

This bill is effective January 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any increase in workload as a result of the shortened closing period to voter registration could be handled with existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: None. Prince George's County reports that the lengthening of time for voter registration would result in less time for local boards to prepare voter lists for each polling place; however, any increase in workload could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: This bill would not directly affect small businesses.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 1998

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