

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 125 (Delegates Arnick and Gettv)
(Commission to Revise the Election Code)

Commerce and Government Matters

**Election Law - Publication Requirements - Constitutional Amendments and
Referenda**

This proposed constitutional amendment eliminates the publishing requirements of proposed constitutional amendments. Currently, 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.

If approved by the voters this constitutional amendment would be effective for all general elections after the November 1998 general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The costs associated with these requirements are borne by the State. The Governor's 1999 proposed budget allocates \$46,000 for advertising and publication of election laws and constitutional amendments. If the proposed amendment is approved by the voters, future expenditures could decrease, depending on the alternate method selected by the State Board of Elections to publicize future proposed amendments.

Local Effect: 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.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Queen Anne's County, Harford

County, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - January 28, 1998

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Analysis by: Thomas Hickey

Direct Inquiries to:

Reviewed by: John Rixey

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710