

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1156 (Delegate Hixson)

Commerce and Government Matters

Constitutional Amendment - General Assembly - Duration of Session

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment which repeals the 90-day limit for the regular session of the General Assembly and the 30-day limit for an extended session.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate effect on general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Each day of the legislative session costs at least \$41,000 above expenditures for salaries for regular employees. This figure includes overtime for hourly employees, costs for contractual employees, legislators' per diem and lodging, the legislative page program, and similar costs. Additional costs which could be affected include maintenance, supplies, and utilities, among others. Costs would therefore increase by at least \$41,000 for each day beyond the 90th day of a session, or would decline by at least that amount for each day a session would be shorter under this bill.

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): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 1998

Inc

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