

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 27 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*)
(Commission to Revise the Election Code)

Economic & Environmental Affairs

Elections - Nomination of Candidates - Petition Signature Requirements

This bill changes the requirements for nominating candidates for office by petition. The number of petition signatures necessary to nominate candidates is reduced from 3% to 1% of the registered voters eligible to vote for the office, with a minimum of 250 signatures.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any increase in the number of candidates filing for election as a result of the lower number of signatures required could be handled with existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: None. Any increase in the number of signatures needing verification due to more individuals seeking office could be handled with local election boards' existing resources, as could any costs associated with an increase in the number of candidates' names placed on the ballots. Local election boards could have less signatures to verify per candidate. Any additional filing fees are assumed to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Charles County, Prince George's County, Somerset County, Montgomery County

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1998
lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 1998

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