

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 127 (Senators Collins and Craig)
(Commission to Revise the Election Code)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Election Laws - Repeal of Filing Fees

This bill repeals filing fees for all persons filing certificates of candidacy for a public or party office. Current law requires that an individual who files a certificate of candidacy pay a filing fee ranging from \$10 to \$290, depending on the office for which the individual seeks to be a candidate.

This bill is effective January 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal effect on county revenues. No effect on expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The \$290 filing fee for certificates of candidacy for statewide office are transferred to the counties and Baltimore City. The fees are divided equally among the counties, \$10 to each county for each candidate filing for statewide office. Baltimore City receives \$60 for each candidate filing for statewide office. With respect to filing fees for certificates of candidacy for Congressional offices, if the Congressional district represents more than one county, the filing fees are divided equally among the counties. This provision also applies to the filing fees of candidates for the Maryland General Assembly in which more than one county is represented in a district.

Local Effect: Under this bill county governments would not receive filing fees for local

public offices or a percentage of filing fees for statewide or other offices. Somerset County reports that this loss of revenue would be approximately \$1,055 for each election year. Prince George's County estimates election year revenue losses of approximately \$5,000 during gubernatorial election years and \$2,000 during presidential election years. Charles County reports a projected revenue loss of \$1,000 for each election year.

Information Source(s): State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Somerset County, Prince George's County, Charles County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1998

Inc

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