

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 158 (Delegate Leopold. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Gubernatorial Term - Commencement**

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This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to change the date on which the Governor's term of office commences from the third to the first Wednesday of January following the election, unless that day is January 1, in which case the term of office would begin on the first Thursday of January.

Furthermore, the amendment repeals the requirement that the election returns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor be sent to the Speaker of the House of Delegates at the beginning of the legislative session and that the Speaker open and count the votes thereby prescribing who will fill the two offices.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maryland, which does not affect the term of Governor that begins in January 1999, is to be submitted to the voters of Maryland at the next general election in November 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** 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.

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**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 22, 1998

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