

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 448 (Delegate Edwards)

Appropriations

General Assembly Compensation Commission - Membership - Constitutional Amendment

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment which reduces from nine to seven the number of members of the General Assembly Compensation Commission. The seven members are to be appointed by the Governor and must consist of individuals recommended from each of the following organizations:

- American Legion of the State of Maryland;
- Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
- Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.;
- Maryland League of Women Voters;
- Maryland Parent Teachers Association;
- Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO; and
- Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

Under current law, the commission consists of nine members, five of whom are appointed by the Governor, two of whom are appointed by the President of the Senate, and two of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Commission members serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. Reducing the membership could result in a negligible decrease in such payments. 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 - February 11, 1998

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