

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 20 (Senator Baker)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Easton**

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This bill (1) repeals the Vestry Act that currently governs the corporate and temporal affairs of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Easton; (2) requires every religious corporation formed in Maryland by a parish or separate congregation that is in union with the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal church in the Diocese of Easton to adopt bylaws to govern their corporate and temporal affairs; (3) authorizes bylaws to be adopted by a majority of the qualified voters voting at a regular or special congregational meeting; (4) authorizes the Department of Assessments and Taxation to file and record certificates of incorporation offered by any parish or separate congregation in the diocese or by the diocese on behalf of any parish or separate congregation; (5) recognizes the legal existence of 39 parishes and separate congregations in the diocese as corporate bodies; and (6) forbids all persons, entities, and instrumentalities from denying the legal and corporate existence of those corporate bodies.

This bill is effective July 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues could increase by a minimal amount as more parishes file articles of incorporation and pay the \$20 filing fee.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. This bill would not affect for-profit organizations.

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**Information Sources:** Department of Assessments and Taxation, Talbot County,

Town of Easton

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - January 25, 1999

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