

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 330 (Senator Miller. *et al.*)

Economic & Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Baltimore City Elections Cycle

This bill requires that elections for officers in Baltimore City be held only on a four-year election cycle concurrent with State and county elections. The bill also provides that candidates elected in Baltimore City on November 2, 1999 shall serve a term of three years. An elected official who serves a full three-year term shall receive credit in the Baltimore City pension system for vesting purposes for a four-year term of office. Beginning in 2002 Baltimore City elections will be held at the same time as State and county elections. Candidates elected in 2002 will serve a normal four-year term.

This bill is contingent on the passage of Senate Bill 331, a Constitutional Amendment, and its ratification by the voters of the State.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could decrease by up to \$500,000 as a result of consolidating elections. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The State Board of Elections currently prepares campaign reports and materials and provides computer programming specifically for the Baltimore City election. The board's expenditures could decrease if the Baltimore City election were to be held at the same time as the gubernatorial election. Election materials and reports could be prepared for all elections at the same time which could result in cost savings for material and staff time. Any cost savings is assumed to be minimal since these functions would still be performed for Baltimore City in the new election cycle. Although the volume of materials and reports that are filed in a gubernatorial election would increase due to the addition of Baltimore City, the board could handle the additional volume with existing personnel.

Local Expenditures: Baltimore City currently spends between \$500,000 and \$600,000 for citywide and gubernatorial elections. Baltimore City advises that the number of ballot styles would increase from 11 in a gubernatorial election to 35 in a combined election resulting in additional printing costs of \$100,000. Thus, holding these elections concurrently would decrease city expenditures by approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Under current law, an elected official in Baltimore City is vested in the retirement system after serving three full terms (12 years). The bill will allow an official who is elected in November 1999 and serves a full three-year term to get credit for four years of service. Granting this one year credit would not directly affect city operations or finances.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 1999
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