

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 402 (Delegate Billings, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Baltimore City and Baltimore County - Merger

This bill proposes amendments to the Constitution of Maryland to dissolve the City of Baltimore and merge the city into Baltimore County. The bill alters the number and composition of the judicial circuits and the appellate judicial circuits and repeals constitutional offices for the city.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal effect on general fund expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: 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. It is anticipated that the fiscal 2001 budget of the State Board of Elections will contain funding for publishing constitutional amendments for the 2000 general election.

Local Effect: If approved by the General Assembly, this constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at the 2000 general election. It should not require additional costs for the county election boards to administer the election.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 1999

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