

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 504 (Delegate Bozman. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Code Counties - Referendum - Special Election

This bill provides that a referendum on a local law enacted by the county commissioners of a code county may be submitted to the voters at a special election if a special election is called for by a resolution of the county commissioners. Under current law a referendum may be submitted to the voters only at a regular congressional election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any costs associated with a special election in a code county could be handled with existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: Potential significant expenditure increase for Allegany, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Worcester Counties. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Should the County Commissioners of Allegany, Kent, Queen Anne's, or Worcester Counties call for a special election on a referendum, expenditures could increase significantly. The cost for conducting a special election is estimated to be: (1) \$50,000 in Allegany County; (2) \$18,000 in Caroline County; (3) \$14,000 in Kent County; (4) \$20,000 in Queen Anne's County; and (5) \$86,000 in Worcester County. The higher costs in Worcester County can be attributed to the additional costs for leasing voting machines (\$37,500). The other counties own their voting systems.

Information Source(s): Allegany, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Worcester Counties; State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - February 22, 1999

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