

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 164 (Senators Ferguson and Sfikas)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**General Assembly - Term Limits**

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This bill proposes a constitutional amendment which prohibits members of the General Assembly from serving more than 3 consecutive terms in 1 house beginning with the January 2003 term. An individual can be elected to a house in which 3 terms have been consecutively served if 4 years have passed since the expiration of the last term.

An individual who has served at least 2 consecutive terms in the Senate may not serve in the House of Delegates in the subsequent term of office, unless the individual is appointed to complete an unexpired term. Unless at least 4 full years have elapsed since the expiration of the individual's last full term in the Senate, the individual may not run for reelection in the House. An individual may not be a candidate for election to either house beginning in November 2002 if the individual has served 6 or more terms in the General Assembly.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal general fund expenditure decrease. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** Membership in the legislative pension system is optional. Term limits may influence a legislator's decision to participate in the pension system.

Additionally, maximum retirement benefits are obtained after 22.5 years of service. The structure of these term limits may make it more difficult to achieve 22.5 years of service. To the extent that these effects are realized, State costs for the legislative pension system would be reduced. It is not possible to quantify the amount of the reduction, but it would probably not be substantial.

The Maryland Constitution requires bills that propose amendments to the Constitution be publicized in at least 2 newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least 3 newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for 4 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 Expenditures:** 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.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Retirement Agency, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 1999  
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