

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 436 (Senator Conway)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Education - New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Elected Voting Members

This bill alters the selection process for 3 of the 9 voting members of the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners from appointment by the Mayor and Governor to at-large elections. Board members' elections must take place at either the mayoral election or whenever a general election is conducted in the city for any other purpose. The 3 elected board members would be elected at the 1999 local election in Baltimore City and begin their terms of office on January 1, 2000. In addition, the bill enables elected board members to serve more than 2 consecutive full terms, which is currently prohibited.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2006 to hold a special election for school board members. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Legislation enacted in 1997 replaced the existing Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners appointed by the Mayor with a 10-member board appointed jointly by the Mayor and Governor. The current board includes 9 voting members and 1 non-voting student member.

Local Effect: The bill requires that 3 of the 9 voting members of the board of school commissioners be elected at either a mayoral election or general election. Since board

members serve a 3-year term, future school board elections will not coincide with either a mayoral or general election. This situation first occurs in November 2005. Accordingly, Baltimore City would either have to hold a special school board election, which is not authorized by this bill, at a cost of \$500,000, or the school board members would have to serve an extra year. Since the bill does not address this issue, the actual impact on Baltimore City cannot be determined at this time.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 1999

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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510