

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 77 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)  
(Departmental - Secretary of State)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Notaries Public**

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This departmental bill (1) permits the Secretary of State to approve the Governor's appointment of Maryland residents as notaries public if the senatorial office in which the applicant resides is vacant; (2) eliminates the requirement that out-of-state residents obtain senatorial approval in order to serve as notaries public; (3) requires the State Police to conduct a criminal background check at the Secretary of State's request of an individual seeking to be commissioned as a notary public without senatorial approval; (4) requires an out-of-state notary public to be resident of a state that allows Maryland residents working in that State to serve as notaries public; and (5) authorizes the Secretary of State to release public information found in the notary public records for an approved purpose.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Assuming that the criminal background checks authorized by this bill include only "name-based checks" and not fingerprinting checks, any additional workload could be handled with existing State Police personnel. The provision that authorizes the Secretary of State to sell lists of public information codifies existing practice, and any additional workload to the Secretary of State could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Secretary of State has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Information Sources:** Secretary of State, Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - February 2, 1999

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