

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Revised**

House Bill 100 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Ethics, State Commission on)

Commerce & Government Matters \_\_\_\_\_ Ref. to Economic & Environmental Affairs

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**Public Ethics - Local Election Directors - Public Officials**

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This departmental bill amends the definition of “public official” under the Maryland Public Ethics Law to include the election director for each county board of elections.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any additional work or expense resulting from the bill could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The State Ethics Commission has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill).

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**Analysis**

**Background:** The Maryland Public Ethics Law requires government officials and employees who are considered “public officials” to disclose their financial affairs and set minimum ethical standards for the conduct of State and local business. The State Ethics Commission advises that 12 of the 24 current county election directors already qualify as public officials and file financial disclosure statements.

could be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 101 of 1996 sought to include Maryland members of interstate commissions within the definition of “public official” in the Public Ethics Law. That bill received an unfavorable report by the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Ethics Commission, Baltimore City, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 25, 2000  
jir/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 2000

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