

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1022 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Prince George's County - Specimen Ballots
PG 400-00

This bill requires the Prince George's County Board of Elections to mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter before every primary election, and to each registered voter before the general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures would increase by \$40,287 for each general election and by \$137,735 for each primary election due to postage and printing costs. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Specimen ballots are mailed to the household of each registered voter before a general election. The Prince George's County Board of Elections is not required to send out specimen ballots for primary elections.

Local Expenditures: Sending a specimen ballot to each registered voter before a general election, rather than just to each household with a registered voter, would require an additional \$40,287, \$36,930 for postage and \$3,357 for printing. To send a primary election specimen ballot to each household with a registered voter would require \$137,735, \$90,235 for postage and \$47,500 for printing. The next general election will take place in November 2000 (fiscal 2001). In fiscal 2002 there are no elections. In fiscal 2003, both the State

primary election (September 2002) and the State general election (November 2002) take place, thus increasing expenditures by a total of approximately \$178,022. In fiscal 2004 there is the Presidential primary election (increase of about \$137,735) and in fiscal 2005 there is the Presidential general election (\$40,287).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Bills that would have required specimen ballots to be sent for primary elections were introduced in 1999 (as HB 337) and in 1998 (as HB 631). Both bills passed the House. The 1999 bill was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. The 1998 bill was not reported from a Senate select committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2000

Analysis by: Mark Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510