

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 682 (Senator Conway)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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

This bill alters the selection process for three of the nine 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 three elected board members would be elected at the 2000 general election in Baltimore City and begin their terms of office on January 1, 2001. In addition, the bill enables elected board members to serve more than two consecutive full terms, which is currently prohibited.

This bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2010 to hold a special election for school board members. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Legislation enacted in 1997 replaced the existing Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners appointed by the Mayor with a ten-member board appointed jointly by the Mayor and Governor. The current board includes nine voting members and one non-voting student member.

Baltimore elections occur the year after the Maryland Gubernatorial election and the year before the Presidential election. No other Maryland elections are held in conjunction with the Baltimore City elections. Legislation (SB 447/HB 782) has been introduced in the 2000 session that would align the Baltimore City elections with the Presidential election.

Local Effect: The bill requires that three of the nine voting members of the board of school commissioners be elected at either a mayoral election or general election. Since board members serve a three-year term, future school board elections may not coincide with either a mayoral or a general election. This situation first occurs in November 2009. 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced in the 1999 session as HB 375 and received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee. SB 436 was introduced in the 1999 session but was subsequently withdrawn.

Cross File: HB 869 (Delegate C. Davis, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2000
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