

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 664 (Senator Van Hollen)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Election - Campaign Finance - Reporting Requirements

This bill adds two additional campaign finance reports that must be submitted by candidates prior to any primary election. One report must be submitted no later than 14 Tuesdays before a primary election, and the other must be submitted no more than eight Tuesdays prior to a primary election. In addition, the bill authorizes local boards of elections to adopt regulations that require additional reports or statements from candidates running for election in the local jurisdiction.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State Board of Elections expenditures would increase by approximately \$100,000 in FY 2001 to pay the board's software vendor for database modifications. The out-years, beginning in FY 2002, would require additional postage costs of about \$3,000 annually.

Local Effect: It is assumed that any new regulations adopted by local boards of elections could be written and enforced with existing resources. The local boards are not required to adopt additional reporting requirements.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Candidates are required to file four campaign financing reports in a normal election year. Two are filed before the primary, one is filed between the primary and the general election, and one is filed after the general election. Election years include those years in which the Maryland Governor is elected (e.g., 1998), the Baltimore City Mayor is elected

(e.g., 1999), or the President of the United States is elected (e.g., 2000). Every fourth year is a non-election year and only one report is required. The bill does not require additional reports in non-election years.

State Expenditures: The State Board of Elections and the software vendor that it employs advise that changes to the campaign finance database would be necessary to allow for the two additional reporting periods. The modifications would require about six months of work at a total cost of approximately \$100,000. This is a one-time cost that would be incurred in fiscal 2001.

The State Board of Elections would also incur additional postage costs associated with sending out two more Pre-Primary Report Notices to all certified candidates. The cost is estimated at \$3,000 per year and would apply to all election years, beginning with 2002 when the next primary election is scheduled.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2000
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