

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1157 (Delegate Pitkin. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

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General Assembly - Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics - Citizen Members and Appointment

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This bill alters the membership of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics by replacing two Senators and two Delegates with four citizen members (two members appointed by the Senate President and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House). The entire membership of the committee would elect a Senate chairman from the Senators serving as members on the committee and a House chairman from the Delegates serving as members on the committee. The Senate chairman would preside over the committee in even-numbered years and the House chairman would preside over the committee in odd-numbered years.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Altering the membership of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics would not affect State expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics is comprised of 12 members: six Senators appointed by the Senate President and six Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House. The President and the Speaker can jointly appoint a chairman and vice chairman of the committee or separately appoint a co-chairman.

**Background:** The committee promulgates rules of legislative ethics that address conflicts of interest of members of the General Assembly. The rules become effective after adoption of a joint resolution approved by a majority of both houses voting separately. The committee also

issues guidelines and establishes procedures for implementation of the rules. A legislator may request that the committee issue an advisory opinion regarding the ethics of actions taken or contemplated by the legislator.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source:** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2000  
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