

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 270 (Senator Della)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Ethics Law - Preliminary Disclosure Statement

This bill eliminates the requirement that a member of the General Assembly file a preliminary disclosure form on or before the seventh day of the legislative session.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In addition to the full-year disclosure statement due on April 30 of each year, a member of the General Assembly must file a preliminary disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission and the Joint Ethics Committee. The preliminary disclosure statement must be filed on or before the seventh day of the regular legislative session. The preliminary statement is not required if: (1) the preliminary disclosure statement will not contain a substantial change from the full-year statement filed in the previous year; or (2) a full-year statement is filed on or before the seventh day of the regular legislative session.

State Effect: The State Ethics Commission advises that fewer than 12 preliminary statements are filed each year. In addition, a few individuals file full-year statements before the due date for the preliminary statement. Each year preliminary statement forms

are printed and mailed by the Ethics Commission to members of the General Assembly. This bill will reduce general fund expenditures for printing, mailing, telephone, and other communication costs related to the preliminary statement by \$200 annually beginning in fiscal 2003.

The State Ethics Commission also advises that eliminating the requirement for the preliminary disclosure statement will reduce the availability of public information for up to four months.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 8, 2001
ncs/jr

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