

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 161 (Senator Harris)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Baltimore County Republican Party Central Committee

This bill changes the method of electing members of the Baltimore County Republican Central Committee by providing for the election of four members from each Baltimore County council district and one chairman to be elected at-large. It expands the membership of the Central Committee from 24 members to 29.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill's changes could be made by the State Board of Elections using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: The bill's changes could be made by Baltimore County using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Republican Central Committee comprises 24 members elected from existing State legislative districts in Baltimore County. The chairman is elected at-large. There are currently 11 State legislative districts that are located wholly or partially within Baltimore County. Seven of these are multimember districts. The number of committee representatives per district depends on the proportion of Baltimore County residents in the district, or the number of State representatives elected from the district. This bill would base representation on the seven county council districts in Baltimore County.

Local Fiscal Effect: This bill would require the Baltimore County local election board to adjust its ballot to reflect the committee seats in terms of county council districts instead of State legislative districts. Baltimore County's ballot, however, is already designed for councilmanic districts. Therefore, the change would only require minimal rearrangement of the current ballot, and would require no additional costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 1385, was introduced in the 1998 session. That bill would have elected three members from each county council district. It was referred to the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. No action was taken.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 31, 2001
ef/jr

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