

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 744 (Delegates Kagan and Bronrott)
Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Deadlines for Filing Certificates of Candidacy - Extensions

This bill extends the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy and a certificate of withdrawal for a primary election in the event that an incumbent candidate dies or withdraws from a political race. If an incumbent dies within seven days prior to the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy, the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy is extended by 15 days. If, after filing a certificate of candidacy, an incumbent candidate files a certificate of withdrawal, the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy is extended by 15 days and the deadline for filing a certificate of withdrawal is extended by five days. The extensions apply to candidates who wish to have their names appear on the ballot for a primary election and who are running for offices other than delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in the number of certificates of candidacy filed could be handled with the existing resources of the State Board of Elections.

Local Effect: Any increase in the number of certificates of candidacy filed could be handled with the existing resources of the local boards of elections.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A certificate of candidacy must be filed no later than 9:00 p.m. on the Monday that is 70 days prior to the day on which the primary election will be held. A certificate of withdrawal may be filed up to ten days after the deadline for a certificate of candidacy.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 248, an identical bill, was introduced in the 2000 session. It was unfavorably reported from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. In the 1999 session, the provisions in this bill were introduced in two separate bills. HB 239 contained provisions extending the deadline in the event of an incumbent's death, and HB 245 contained provisions extending deadlines after an incumbent withdraws. Both bills received unfavorable reports from the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Allegany, Talbot, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

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