

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 495 (Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Repealing the Disenfranchisement of Convicted Felons in Maryland

This bill establishes an 11-member Task Force to Study Repealing the Disenfranchisement of Convicted Felons in Maryland. The task force is required to study the national consensus regarding the disenfranchisement of convicted felons and submit a report of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2001. The State Board of Elections and the Maryland Attorney General's Office are required to provide staffing for the task force.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any staffing requirements could be handled within the existing resources of the State Board of Elections and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual with a single conviction for theft or an infamous crime may register to vote after serving the sentence imposed for the conviction. An individual with two or more convictions for theft or other infamous crimes may not register to vote. Infamous crimes are defined as treason, felonies, and crimes which involve some element of deceitfulness, untruthfulness, or falsification. The State Board of Elections keeps a list

of the crimes that have been legally defined as infamous. Also, crimes of violence are defined in Article 27, § 643B of the Code.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 9, 2001
mld/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 30, 2001
Revised – Enrolled Bill – May 11, 2001

Analysis by: Michelle L. Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510