

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 16 (Delegate Arnick)

Commerce and Government Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

State Comptroller - Rules of Succession

This constitutional amendment provides that in the case of a vacancy in the office of the State Comptroller by death or otherwise, the Chief Deputy Comptroller shall act as Comptroller until a successor is elected at the next regularly scheduled general election, and the successor qualifies and takes office. This also applies if the Comptroller is removed by the Governor for incompetence, malfeasance, willful neglect, or misappropriation of funds.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed amendments to the constitution be publicized in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding the general election. The State is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. It is anticipated that the FY 2003 budget of the State Board of Elections will contain funding for publishing constitutional amendments for the 2002 general election.

Local Effect: If approved by the General Assembly, this constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at the 2002 general election. It should not result in additional costs for the county election boards.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, fills a vacancy by appointing an individual as acting Comptroller until the next regularly scheduled election.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: The bill was introduced as HB 45 during the 2000 session. It received an unfavorable report from the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 15, 2001
ncs/jr

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