

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 237 (Delegate C. Davis)
Ways and Means

**Education - New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Elected
Voting Members**

This bill alters the selection process for three of the nine voting members of the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners from appointment by the Mayor and the Governor to at-large elections. Board members' elections must take place at either the mayoral election or whenever a general election is conducted in the city for any other purpose. The three elected board members would be elected at the 2002 general election and would begin their terms of office on January 1, 2003. In addition, the bill enables elected board members to serve more than two consecutive full terms.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2006 to hold a special election for school board members. Baltimore City revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is appointed jointly by the Mayor and the Governor. The board includes nine voting members and one

non-voting student member. Board members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Baltimore City elections occur the year between the Maryland Gubernatorial election and the Presidential election. The year after Presidential elections, no elections are held in Baltimore City.

Background: In 1997 the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners was formed through legislative action to replace the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City. The new board was established in order to create a partnership between Baltimore City and the State and to improve public education in the city and encourage more efficient use of State and city resources.

Local Expenditures: The bill requires that three of the nine voting members of the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners be elected at either a mayoral election or a general election. Because board members serve a three-year term, school board elections following the 2002 election might not coincide with either a mayoral or a general election. This situation would first occur in November 2005 (fiscal 2006). Accordingly, Baltimore City would either have to hold a special school board election, which is not authorized by the bill, at a cost of approximately \$500,000, or the school board members would have to serve an extra year. Since the bill does not address this issue, the actual impact on Baltimore City operations and expenditures cannot be determined at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: In 2000, similar cross-filed bills were introduced as HB 869/SB 682. The House bill was not reported from the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate version was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. Cross-filed bills were also introduced in the 1999 session as HB 375/SB 436. HB 375 received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee, and SB 436 was withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

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ef/hb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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