

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 868           (Delegate Kagan)  
Commerce and Government Matters

**Election Laws - Absentee Voters - Publication**

This bill requires local boards of election to exclude, at the request of a voter, all information concerning an application for an absentee ballot from the voter's full record of absentee voting.

The bill is effective January 1, 2002.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** State expenditures would increase by \$1,200 in FY 2002 to upgrade the State Board of Elections' voter registration system. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	1,200	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$1,200)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** The bill would not directly affect local government finances since local boards provide absentee ballot records to requesting voters via the State board's database.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Local boards are required to maintain a full record of absentee voting which includes an absentee voter's name, address, issue date, ballot style, and the action taken with regard to the application. The State election code also allows any registered voter to examine absentee ballot applications.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The State Board of Elections advises that absentee voting record information is currently stored in the database files of its central voter registration system. The State board supplies local boards with reports of absentee voting records when members of the public request them, but its voter registration database is not presently capable of keeping portions of selected absentee records confidential when it issues these reports. A one-time expenditure of \$1,200 in fiscal 2002 would be needed for upgrades to its system.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections; Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington, and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 9, 2001  
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