

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 278 (Senator McFadden, *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Election Law - Baltimore City - Required Notice of Elections by Newspaper  
Advertisement - Repeal**

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This bill removes the provision in the State election code that requires Baltimore City to provide notice of an election through advertisements in all local newspapers.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City expenditures would decrease by \$30,000 per election starting in FY 2003. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State election code requires a local election board to provide notice of each election to the registered voters of the county by either: (a) specimen ballot mailed at least one week before the election; or (b) publication or dissemination by mass communication during the calendar week preceding the election. The notice must include the time and place of the election, and the offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot. In Prince George's County for the general election, the local board must provide notice by mailing specimen ballots. In Baltimore City, the local board must give notice of an election by advertisement in each daily newspaper published in the city, and may give notice in any weekly or semiweekly newspaper that has a circulation of 20,000 or more subscribers.

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) (33.05.07.01(b)) provides that before every general election, all election directors shall mail a specimen ballot to all registered voters in their respective jurisdictions.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Baltimore City Board of Elections advises that it costs approximately \$30,000 to give notice of an election by advertisement in two local papers. Therefore, Baltimore City expenditures would decrease by \$30,000 per election under the bill. The election schedule through calendar 2004 is as follows:

2001	None
2002	September primary November general
2003	September primary November general
2004	March primary November general

Total Baltimore City expenditures would decrease by \$60,000 in fiscal 2003, by \$90,000 in fiscal 2004, and by \$30,000 in fiscal 2005.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 7, 2001  
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