

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 848

(Senator Della)

Judicial Proceedings

Retroactive Legislation

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting the General Assembly from passing a law that may or must be applied or take effect retroactively to a date prior to the date of the signing of the legislation by the Governor, except by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each of the two houses concurring.

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 a 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. This bill is not expected to have any other direct effect on governmental finances.

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 Maryland Constitution does not specifically prohibit the General Assembly from passing retroactive legislation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced during the 2000 session as SB 905, but no action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 12, 2001
ncs/jr

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