

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 59 (Delegate Boschert)

Commerce and Government Matters

Election Law - Deceased Registered Voters

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City and the health officer of each county to report to the Motor Vehicle Administration the names and addresses of all individuals at least 16 years of age who are reported deceased. In addition, the next of kin of a deceased voter must provide a certified copy of the registered voter's death certificate to the Motor Vehicle Administration either in person or by mail within eight weeks of the registered voter's death. The Motor Vehicle Administration must forward copies of these documents to the State Board of Elections on a monthly basis. Upon receipt of the copy of the death certificate from the Motor Vehicle Administration, the State Board of Elections must notify the local boards of election of the deceased registered voter. The local boards of election must remove the voter from the registration list. The bill also sets a civil fine penalty of not more than \$500 for individuals willfully and knowingly failing to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration of a registered voter's death.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State general fund expenditures would increase by \$174,600 in FY 2002. Future year expenditures reflect inflation and the elimination of one-time start-up expenses. State general fund revenues would increase by \$157,500 in FY 2002. Out-year revenues reflect annualization and a constant number of deceased individuals.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenue	\$157,500	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000
GF Expenditure	174,600	194,600	199,500	204,500	209,600
Net Effect	(\$17,100)	\$15,400	\$10,500	\$5,500	\$400

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

Local Effect: Any additional administrative work could be supported with existing resources of the local boards of elections and the local health officers.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City and the health officers of each county must provide the names and residence addresses of all individuals at least 16 years of age reported deceased since the date of the last report to the State Board of Elections.

Background: Approximately 40,000 deaths are reported in Maryland each year, of which 35,000 are for individuals over the age of 16.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures would increase by \$174,600 in fiscal 2002, of which \$31,900 is for the State Board of Elections and \$142,700 is for the Motor Vehicle Administration.

The State Board of Elections' expenditures would increase by \$31,900 in fiscal 2002. This includes \$26,300 for the salary and benefits of one additional clerical staff to handle materials and information provided by the Motor Vehicle Administration and \$5,600 in operating expenses. Changes to the ongoing development of the State Board of Elections statewide voter registration database could entail additional costs; these costs are unknown. Future year expenditures increase to \$38,300 in fiscal 2003 and to \$45,200 by fiscal 2006.

Motor Vehicle Administration expenditures would increase by \$142,700 in fiscal 2002 for three additional data entry staff, supplies, communication costs, and one-time costs to modify databases. Additional contractual staff would cost \$64,500, a public information campaign to notify licensed drivers would cost approximately \$49,000, a one-time modification to the agency's database would cost approximately \$25,000 and communication expenses would total \$4,200. Future year expenditures increase to \$156,300 in fiscal 2003 and \$164,400 in fiscal 2006.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase by \$157,500 in fiscal 2002 and by \$210,000 each year thereafter due to the purchase of additional death certificates. The next of kin of deceased Marylanders 16 years of age or older would be required to obtain a copy of the death certificate, which can be obtained for \$6 from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Division of Vital Statistics.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Vital Statistics Administration, Calvert County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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