

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 870 (Senator Green)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Elections - Form of Petitions

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This bill requires the State and local election boards to seek the advice of a legal authority when determining the legal sufficiency of the format of a petition submitted in advance of filing for inclusion on the ballot.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Increased paperwork and other administrative costs associated with modest increases in referrals to attorneys could be handled within the existing budgeted resources of the State Board of Elections.

**Local Effect:** Most counties would be able to handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** State law allows election boards to seek legal advice on the final form of a petition, but does not require it.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Caroline County advises that the bill would require a substantial increase in expenditures because the Caroline County attorney's rate is \$200 per hour.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Caroline County, Calvert County, Howard County, Maryland State Board of Elections, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2002  
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