

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1046 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)
(Departmental – Elections, State Board of)

Commerce and Government Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Elections - Provisional Ballots - Voter Registration

This departmental bill authorizes local election boards to issue provisional ballots prior to election day, clarifies an election director's authority to correct clerical errors in voter registration records, and allows provisional ballots to be cast on electronic, direct recording voting equipment. It also requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to report information on deceased individuals within the State, requires the clerk of each circuit court and the administrative clerk of each District Court to report the names of persons convicted of an infamous crime, and requires the clerk of each circuit court to report the names of all individuals who have had their names changed.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Any increase in the distribution of provisional ballots could be handled within the existing resources of local election boards.

Small Business Effect: The State Board of Elections has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: State law allows provisional ballots to be distributed at polling places on election day to qualifying voters. The election code currently requires the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City and the health officer of each county to report death information to the State Board of Elections. State law does not address provisional ballots cast on electronic voting systems.

Background: Chapter 424 of 2001 (SB 740) authorized the use of provisional ballots in conjunction with a system of continuous registration for voters. This statute was the culmination of the Governor's Special Committee on Voting Systems and Election Procedures which submitted recommendations regarding implementation of the National Motor Voter Act in February 2001.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2002
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 2, 2002

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