

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 287 (Delegates Kagan and Flanagan)
Commerce and Government Matters

Elections - Selection of Voting Systems - Open Meetings

This bill requires meetings of State and local election board personnel concerning the selection of a voting system for polling places to be subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

The bill is effective January 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under Maryland's Open Meetings Act, with limited exceptions, a "public body" must meet in open session. A public body is any entity that: (1) consists of at least two individuals; and (2) is created by the Maryland Constitution; a State statute; a county charter; an ordinance, a rule, resolution, or bylaw; or an executive order of the Governor or of the chief executive authority of a political subdivision. Exclusions from the definition of "public body" include juries, the Governor's cabinet and Executive Council, and single member entities.

Background: Chapter 564 of 2001 (HB 1457) requires the State Board of Elections to procure a uniform statewide voting system for polling places and absentee voting. On December 7, 2001, the board selected a vendor (Global-Diebold Systems) for a new direct recording electronic voting system. The contract initially calls for a total of 4,678 new voting system units for Allegany, Dorchester, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties at a total cost of about \$13,182,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2002
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