

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 168 (Senator Baker)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Constitutional Amendment - Legislative Districts - Equal Population**

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This bill proposes a constitutional amendment that would require State legislative districts to be formed in a good-faith effort to achieve precise mathematical equality in population. The amendment would be submitted to voters at the 2002 general election for adoption or rejection.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** It is anticipated that the FY 2003 budgets of local election boards will contain funding for notifying qualified voters about proposed constitutional amendments for the 2002 general election in newspapers or on specimen ballots.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Article III, section 4 of the Maryland Constitution requires that State legislative districts consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of substantially equal population. The U.S. Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, also requires that state legislative districts be of substantial equal population. Generally, various decisions by federal courts have allowed overall population deviations of 10% which is the difference between the most populous and least populous districts in a proposed redistricting plan.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2002  
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Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510