

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 290

(Carroll County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Carroll County - Board of County Commissioners

This bill increases the membership of the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County from three to five and requires the five commissioners to be elected from districts. Before the bill is effective, it must be approved by the voters of the county at the November 2004 general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: County expenditures could increase by approximately \$61,100 in FY 2007 and by approximately \$122,200 in FY 2008 and each year thereafter. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: If approved by the voters, the bill requires the County Commissioners of Carroll County to appoint a seven-member commission redistricting committee with three members recommended by the Carroll County Republican Central Committee, three members recommended by the Carroll County Democratic Central Committee, and one member recommended by the Carroll County Board of Elections.

Current Law: The Board of County Commissioners for Carroll County has three members elected at-large.

Background: Carroll County is one of ten counties that operate under the county commission form of government. Commission counties have only those powers that are expressly delegated by the General Assembly. Changing the membership of the county commissioners in the county commission form of government must receive approval of the General Assembly.

Cecil County, a commissioner county, expanded the membership of the County Commissioners from three to five members beginning with the November 2002 general election. All five commissioners are elected at-large. Chapter 33 of 1998 provided for the membership of the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County to increase from three to five members effective with the November 2002 general election, pending the approval of the qualified voters of the county in the November 1998 general election. The measure was approved by a 53% to 47% margin.

Additionally, Queen Anne's County, a code home rule county, expanded the membership of the county commissioners from three to five beginning with the November 2002 general election. One commissioner is elected at-large and four commissioners are elected from districts.

Local Fiscal Effect: County commissioners receive an annual salary of \$45,000 and fringe benefits. If the increase in board membership is approved, Carroll County expenditures would increase by approximately \$61,075 in fiscal 2007. This estimate reflects the salaries (\$45,000), fringe benefits at 35% (\$15,750), and additional operating costs (\$325) for the two new county commissioners for six months. Annualized expenditures would increase by approximately \$122,150 reflecting salaries, fringe benefits, and operating costs for a full year. Carroll County revenues would not be affected.

Adding the question to expand the membership of the board of county commissioners at the November 2004 general election could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2003
ncs/hlb

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