

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1122  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Moe, *et al.*)

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Video Lottery Facilities - Special Election

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This emergency bill requires that a special election be held in the county in which a video lottery facility is to be located before an owner of a video lottery facility offers video lottery terminals (VLTs) for public use. The cost of the election is to be paid by the county.

If the majority of the voters voting on the resolution vote for the video lottery facility, the owner of the video lottery facility is considered eligible to be granted permission to offer VLTs for public use in that county. If the majority of the voters vote against the video lottery facility, then the owner of the video lottery facility may not be granted permission to offer a VLT for public use in that county. The election required by the bill is in addition to and does not supplant any other requirement under law that a person who seeks to offer VLTs for public use must meet.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The costs of the special election required by the bill are paid for by local governments.

**Local Effect:** Significant increase in local government expenditures associated with holding a special election. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Specified types of gambling are allowed in Maryland. This includes the State lottery and wagering on horse racing. Bingo, bazaars, and gaming nights are allowed for some nonprofit organizations on a county-by-county basis. Several counties permit for-profit bingo. In addition, some nonprofit organizations in Eastern Shore counties are allowed to operate up to five slot machines, provided that at least 50% of the proceeds go to charity. VLTs are not authorized for operation in the State.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill requires local governments to pay for the special election required by the bill.

The following counties estimate the cost of holding a special election are as follows: Allegany, \$79,000; Anne Arundel, \$740,000; Baltimore City, \$500,000; and Prince George's, \$1 million. A substantial portion of these expenditures consist of poll worker training and compensation and other temporary or permanent election personnel costs.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2003  
mam/jr

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