

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 622

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Capital City - Seat of Government - City of Annapolis

This proposed constitutional amendment adds a new article to the Maryland Constitution establishing the City of Annapolis as the Capital City and the Seat of Government of Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Adding a new article to the Maryland Constitution would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: Officially establishing the City of Annapolis as the Capital City and Seat of Government of Maryland would not directly affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Constitution does not declare the City of Annapolis as the Capital City or the Seat of Government of Maryland.

Background: Although Annapolis was designated the capital of Maryland when Governor Nicholson met with the General Assembly in 1694, nowhere in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or the Code of Maryland is Annapolis formally designated as the Capital City or Seat of Government.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed amendments to the constitution be publicized either: (1) in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding the general election; or (2) by order of the Governor in a manner prescribed by law. State law requires local boards of election to publicize proposed amendments to the constitution either in newspapers or on specimen ballots; local boards of elections are responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. It is anticipated that the fiscal 2005 budgets of local election boards will contain funding for notifying qualified voters about proposed constitutional amendments for the 2004 general election in newspapers or on specimen ballots.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Annapolis, Maryland Municipal League, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2003
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