

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 313

(Senator Stone)

(Chairman, Ethics and Election Law Subcommittee)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Parties Using an Open Primary - Notice to State Board

This bill requires a chairman of a political party's State central committee to notify the State Board of Elections if the party chooses to permit voters not affiliated with the party to vote in that party's primary election. Notification must be made within six months of the primary election.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Decisions regarding whether or not to permit unaffiliated voters to participate in a party's primary election is governed by internal party rules. There is no requirement in State law for a party to notify the State board of such a decision within any specified time period.

Background: The notification requirement in the bill would give the State Board of Elections time to make the necessary changes to training materials, manuals, specimen ballots, and other publications needed prior to an election whenever a principal political party establishes an open primary.

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 - February 25, 2003
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