

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 246
Ways and Means

(Delegate Gordon)

Election Law - Criminal Violations - Statute of Limitations

This bill provides that a prosecution for the commission of or the attempt to commit a misdemeanor violation of the State election laws or to impose a civil fine must be instituted within four years after the offense was committed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional prosecutions that would result from the bill could be handled by the Office of the State Prosecutor using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A prosecution for a misdemeanor violation of the election laws must be instituted within two years after the offense was committed. A prosecution to impose a civil fine for violation of the election laws must be instituted within three years after the offense was committed.

The Office of the State Prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting election law violations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, HB 990 of the 2000 session, passed the House but was not reported from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State's Attorneys' Association, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2003
ncs/cer

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510