

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 519  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Marriott, *et al.*)

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**Election Law - Voter Registration - Felons**

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This bill removes the prohibition on felons who have been convicted more than once for crimes of violence from being eligible to register to vote.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** One-time general fund expenditure in FY 2004 for the State Board of Elections to modify, redesign, reprint, and restock the statewide voter registration application and “How to Vote” brochure. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	30,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$30,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual has been convicted of theft or other infamous crime unless the individual: (1) has been pardoned; (2) has completed the court-ordered sentence imposed in connection with a first conviction; or (3) has completed the court-ordered sentence for a subsequent conviction and at least three years have elapsed since that completion.

In addition, individuals who are under guardianship for mental disability, have been convicted of buying or selling votes, or have been convicted of a second or subsequent crime of violence, are not eligible. Crime of violence is defined in the Criminal Law Article.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll County, Harford County, Montgomery County, St. Mary's County, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2003  
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