

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 383

(Delegates Menes and Patterson)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Candidates' Residencies - Challenges - Expedited Judicial Review**

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This bill allows a registered voter to challenge the residency of a candidate in a primary or general election who is filed for an office in the district or geographic area in which the voter resides, by filing a petition in a circuit court. The deadline for filing a petition is 11 weeks prior to the election in a presidential election year and nine weeks prior to the election in a nonpresidential election year. The bill requires the court to expedite the petition to the extent necessary in consideration of deadlines established by law; however, the court must hear the petition within seven days of filing.

The bill is effective July 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances. Any additional workload for the circuit courts could be absorbed with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A candidate for public or party office must be a registered voter at an address that satisfies any residence requirement for the office that is imposed by law and, in the case of a party office, by party rules.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2004  
ncs/mdr Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 2004

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