

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1458  
Ways and Means

(Delegates Quinter and Jones)

---

**Election Law - State Board of Elections - Appointment and Removal of Members**

---

This bill alters the appointment and removal process for members of the State Board of Elections (SBE). Three members will be appointed by the chair of the majority party and two members will be appointed by the chair of the principal minority party. Appointments remain subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. A member is subject to removal only by unanimous vote of the remaining members of the board.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** SBE is currently comprised of five members, each who serve four-year terms. Each member is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The board must be comprised of a maximum of three and a minimum of two members from the same principal political party. A member may be removed by the Governor for incompetence, misconduct, or other good cause, upon written charges filed by the Governor with the board and after having been afforded notice and ample opportunity to be heard.

**Background:** SBE was formerly the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL), which was mainly an advisory body for local boards of election and a central depository for election records. Chapter 585 of 1998 abolished SABEL and created the State Board of Elections, which has rulemaking authority over local boards of election and overall responsibility for the organization, administration, and financing of the State's election systems.

---

### **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 - March 22, 2005  
mam/jr

---

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

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