

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 288 (Senator Frosh)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Voters' Authority to Cast Write-In Votes

This bill repeals the prohibition on casting a write-in vote in a primary election, thereby authorizing a voter to cast a write-in vote in a primary, general, or special election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: One-time general fund expenditure of \$50,000 in FY 2006 and 2008 for the costs of reprogramming the gubernatorial and presidential primary electronic election ballots to include a field for write-in voting.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
Net Effect	(\$50,000)	\$0	(\$50,000)	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law prohibits a voter from casting a write-in vote in a primary election. Write-in votes are allowed only in a general election or special general election for as many positions as are to be filled in a contest.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Kent County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Washington County, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2005
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