

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 400
Ways and Means

(Delegates Bozman and Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Worcester County Democratic Party Central Committee

This bill specifies the membership of the Worcester County Democratic Party Central Committee and defines the elected term of each member, staggering the terms.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. Changes to State operations could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Worcester County Democratic Party Central Committee consists of 11 members. Seven members must reside in and be elected by the eligible voters of each of the seven county commissioner districts. Four members must reside in the county and be elected at large by the eligible voters of the entire county. A candidate must declare which seat he/she is seeking when filing a certificate of candidacy. A member elected to represent a specific county commissioner district who ceases to reside in the district may not continue to serve on the committee. A vacancy in a seat held by an individual elected from a county commissioner district must be filled by an individual who resides in that district. Members are elected to staggered four-year terms.

Current Law: A principal political party must elect the members of a county central committee at a primary election. Unless set forth by law, the number of members on a committee is determined by the party's constitution. An individual elected to a county central committee must reside in that county and may not continue to serve on the committee if the individual ceases to reside in the county. Similarly, an individual elected to represent a specific legislative district may not continue to serve on the committee if the individual ceases to reside in the legislative district. A vacancy must be filled by an individual who resides in the county and in the case of a vacancy by a member elected to represent a specific legislative district, by an individual who resides in the legislative district. A committee member's term of office begins when the election results are certified.

The composition of local party central committees is set forth in statute for Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.

Background: The 2002 Worcester County committee election resulted in the committee being made up of an entirely new group of members. Staggering the elected terms of the members will allow for more continuity of membership across elected terms.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Worcester County, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2006
ncs/jr

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