

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1021
Appropriations

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Finance

**Montgomery County - Housing Opportunities Commission - Collective
Bargaining
MC 610-06**

This bill specifies that only one election for an exclusive representative of a bargaining unit in the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) may be held if the following petitions are submitted at the same time: (1) a petition filed by an employee organization showing that at least 30% of eligible employees in that bargaining unit support representation by an exclusive representative; and (2) a petition filed by an employee or employee organization showing that at least 30% of eligible employees in a bargaining unit no longer support the current exclusive representative.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Clarifying election procedures and the certification process for an exclusive representative for the employees of the Montgomery County HOC would not impact county finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill stipulates that in the event where these two petitions are submitted simultaneously, the ballot for electing an exclusive representative must contain (1) the name of the current certified employee organization; (2) the name of the petitioning employee organization; and (3) a provision for “no representation.” If, through the election, the petitioning organization is certified as the exclusive

representative, that organization must be treated as a successor to any collective bargaining agreement in which the previous organization was a party.

Current Law: The labor relations administrator must hold an election for an exclusive representative of a bargaining unit in the Montgomery County HOC after (1) a petition is filed by an employee organization showing that at least 30% of eligible employees in that bargaining unit support representation by an exclusive representative; or (2) a petition is filed by an employee or employee organization showing that at least 30% of eligible employees in a bargaining unit no longer support the current exclusive representative. The election for an exclusive representative must be held by secret ballot.

The ballot must also contain (1) the name of each employee organization submitting a valid petition for election; (2) the name of any other employee organization supported by a petition signed by at least 10% of eligible employees in the bargaining unit; and (3) an option for “no representation.” If none of the choices on the ballot receives a majority of the votes, the labor relations administrator must hold a runoff election between the two choices receiving the most votes. The labor relations administrator must certify the employee organization winning the most votes as the exclusive representative.

Background: The Montgomery County HOC is the county’s public housing authority. Its fiscal 2006 operating budget is \$179.4 million, and it owns, manages, or administers 13,069 housing units.

According to the county HOC, there is only one employee organization for its employees, the Municipal and County Government Employee Organization. Of the HOC’s 350 employees, 250 are represented by this organization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

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n/hlb

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