

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 332

(Senator Miller, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Health and Government Operations

Secretary of State - Notary Public - Fees

The bill raises the limit on fees for notary services that the Secretary of State may adopt by regulation from \$2 to \$4.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Fees for notary services are collected and kept by the notaries who provide the services.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small businesses and individuals could pay slightly higher fees to have documents notarized. Revenues for individuals serving as notaries public could increase.

Analysis

Current Law: The Secretary of State is required to adopt regulations establishing fees for notary services that do not exceed \$2 per original notarial act.

Notaries public are appointed by the Governor upon the approval of their application by the Senator representing the senatorial district in which they reside. Applicants pay a processing fee of \$20, which was raised from \$11 in 2003. Notaries must be at least 18 years of age, be of good moral character and integrity, and live or work in the State. Their commissions last for four years, after which they may apply for reappointment by the Secretary of State.

Background: There are approximately 87,000 notaries public in Maryland. Their fee was last raised in 1982 to its current level of \$2.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 400 of 2005 received a favorable report from Judicial Proceedings and passed the full Senate, but was not approved by the House of Delegates.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2006
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