

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 985 (Senator McFadden)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Baltimore City Board of Elections - Compensation for Substitute Board Members and Election Judges

This bill increases the amount paid to a substitute member of the Baltimore City Board of Elections for each meeting the substitute member attends from \$150 to \$200. The change does not apply to substitute members in office on the effective date of the bill, but instead takes effect on the beginning of the next term of office. The amount paid to election judges in Baltimore City for each election day actually served is increased from \$150 to not less than \$200 for chief election judges and from \$125 to not less than \$150 for every other election judge. Each election judge also must receive \$20 as compensation for completing a required course of instruction, provided the election judge serves on election day, unless excused by the board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures would increase by at least \$79,495 in FY 2007 due to increased compensation of election judges. Future year expenditures reflect an expenditure increase of at least \$79,495 per election due to increased compensation of election judges and an additional expenditure increase of \$1,500 annually due to increased compensation of substitute members of the board of elections.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore City Board of Elections consists of three regular members and two substitute members. Two regular members and one substitute member must be of the majority party and one regular member and one substitute member of the minority party. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms beginning on the first Monday in June following a gubernatorial election. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. If a regular member is absent or there is a vacancy in office of a regular member, the substitute member of the same political party must exercise the powers and duties of the regular member until the regular member returns or the vacancy is filled. Vacancies are filled by substitute members who become regular members, and the Governor must appoint an eligible person from the same political party to be the new substitute member.

Each election judge, except for those appointed under emergency circumstances, must participate in a training program that, pursuant to State Board of Elections (SBE) regulations, must be at least two hours in length and is prepared and conducted by local election directors with the use of election judge manuals provided to each local board by SBE. Pursuant to the regulations, an election judge is entitled to compensation of at least \$20 for each training class attended, provided the election judge serves on election day.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City expenditures would increase by at least \$79,495 due to increased compensation of 1,579 election judges and 800 chief election judges for the November 2006 general election. Future year expenditures would reflect an increase in expenditures of at least \$79,495 per election due to election judge compensation (fiscal 2008 would include Baltimore City Mayor and City Council primary and general elections in September and November 2007 and the presidential primary election in March 2008) and an annual expenditure increase of \$1,500 due to increased compensation per meeting attended of substitute members of the board of elections (assuming: • 15 meetings per year; • current members serving the remainder of their terms; and • expenditure increases beginning in fiscal 2008 based on the current term of substitute members ending the first Monday in June 2007 and the State law requirement that members continue to serve until a new member is appointed).

Baltimore City election judges currently receive \$20 for training sessions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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