

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 526 (Delegate Haddaway, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Legislative Districting - Resident Delegates by County

This constitutional amendment requires that to the greatest extent possible, due regard be given to having a resident delegate for every county. The amendment will be submitted to voters at the 2006 general election for adoption or rejection.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: It is anticipated that the FY 2007 budgets of local election boards will contain funding for notifying qualified voters about proposed constitutional amendments for the 2006 general election in newspapers or on specimen ballots.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In a legislative district that contains more than two counties where delegates are elected at large by the voters of the entire district, a county or part thereof may not have more than one delegate residing in that district. In addition, if delegates are elected by voters in a multimember subdistrict which contains more than two counties, or parts of more than two counties, a county or part thereof may not have more than one delegate residing in that subdistrict.

The legislative districting plan of 2002 includes one legislative district and one multimember subdistrict that contain more than two counties or parts of counties, each containing four counties or parts of counties.

The State constitution provides for 47 legislative districts. Each elects one senator and three delegates. A legislative district is required to be contiguous, compact, and of substantially equal population. Due regard is to be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 949 of 2004, a similar bill, was introduced in the House but no further action was taken. Another similar bill, SB 128 of 2004, had a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee but no further action was taken. HB 892 of 2003, another similar bill, was introduced in the House but no further action was taken. SB 472 of 2003, also a similar bill, passed the Senate but was not acted upon by the House.

Cross File: None.

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

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