

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1456 (Delegates Barve and Kach)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**General Assembly - Legislation - Single Subject and Multisubject Bills**

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This bill proposes a constitutional amendment addressing the single subject requirement for legislation. The General Assembly may not enact an omnibus bill embracing nongermane, multifarious subjects except as provided under the amendment. Each house must adopt a uniform rule of procedure to enforce the amendment.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill should not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** It is anticipated that the FY 2007 budgets of local election boards 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.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Each session, the presiding officers may designate up to three bills to be amended in committee to embrace nongermane, multifarious subjects. Any amendments adopted by a committee and reported favorably on a designated bill must embrace only the original subject, the subjects added by the committee, or a combination thereof. An amendment may not be added to a designated bill during its consideration on the floor of either house if the amendment does not embrace the subjects included in the bill as it was reported by the committee.

The amendment does not prohibit omnibus curative or corrective legislation or affect the duty of the General Assembly to comply with the singly “work, object, or purpose” requirement for supplementary appropriations bills.

**Current Law:** Under the Maryland Constitution, every law enacted by the General Assembly must embrace but one subject, and the subject must be described in the bill’s title. Also under the Constitution, either house may consider supplementary appropriations, but both houses may not finally act on them until after the annual budget bill has been finally acted upon by both houses. Supplementary appropriations are not valid unless they comply with specified criteria, including the requirement that a supplemental appropriation must be embodied in a separate bill limited to some single work, object, or purpose therein stated and “called herein a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.”

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar bills, SB 904 and HB 1436, were introduced during the 2000 session. SB 904 was referred to the Senate Rules Committee but no further action was taken. HB 1436 was heard in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2006  
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