

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 28 (Senator Kittleman)
 Judicial Proceedings

State Government - Notary Public - Appointment

This bill requires the Secretary of State to approve all applications for notary public appointments and eliminates the requirement that applications for notary public appointments be approved by State Senators representing the districts in which the applicants reside. It also repeals the requirement that an individual appointed as a notary public be a resident of the senatorial district from which the individual is appointed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$38,600 in FY 2007. Out-years reflect annualization and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	38,600	52,800	55,900	59,100	62,700
Net Effect	(\$38,600)	(\$52,800)	(\$55,900)	(\$59,100)	(\$62,700)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: All applications for notary public commissions must be approved by the State Senator representing the senatorial district in which a given applicant resides. If the Senate seat for the district in which a given applicant resides is vacant, any State Senator may approve the application. The Secretary of State approves applications only for

notary public commissions from out-of-state applicants, which must also be approved by one State Senator. Once a notary public application is approved, the Governor appoints and commissions all notaries public.

State Expenditures: There are approximately 12,000 applications for notary public commissions submitted each year. Currently, the Secretary of State's office merely processes applications that have been approved by State Senators representing the applicants. Under the terms of this bill, the Secretary of State's office would have to review all applications to ensure that applicants met the qualifications for notaries public. This would include confirming that applicants were residents of Maryland, verifying their references, and in general establishing that the applicants were "of good moral character and integrity," as required by statute.

General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$38,556 in fiscal 2007, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2006 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one notary investigator to carry out these expanded duties. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$35,976
Operating Expenses	<u>2,580</u>
Total FY 2007 State Expenditures	\$38,556

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.6% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2006
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