

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 181

(Delegate Bromwell, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County - Election Law - Compensation for Election Judges

This bill increases the compensation for Baltimore County election judges and chief election judges from \$125 to \$162.50 per day and from \$160 to \$225 per day, respectively.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Baltimore County expenditures would increase by \$135,850 in FY 2008 and 2009, reflecting increased election judge staffing costs for the 2008 primary and general election. It is assumed similar increases would be experienced in future election years. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A polling place generally must have at least four election judges, though in a precinct with fewer than 200 registered voters only two judges are required. One or two election judges in each precinct must be designated chief judge and supervise the polling place staff. In Baltimore County, a chief election judge is paid \$160 for each election day actually served; other election judges are paid \$125.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore County expenditures would increase by \$135,850 in fiscal 2008 and 2009, reflecting increased election judge staffing costs for the 2008 primary and general elections. This estimate assumes two precincts would be added in Baltimore County between the 2006 and 2008 elections and 15 election judges would be required per precinct. It is assumed similar increases would be experienced in future election years. **Exhibit 1** shows the estimated expenditure increase for fiscal 2008 and 2009.

Exhibit 1
Increased Compensation for Baltimore County Election Judges
Fiscal 2008 and 2009

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Judges</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Salary</u>	<u>Increased Expenditures</u>
Chief Judge	440	\$160	\$225	\$28,600
Regular Judge	<u>2,860</u>	\$125	\$162.50	<u>107,250</u>
Total	3,300			\$135,850

Note: This estimate assumes that 15 election judges will be assigned to each of the 220 election precincts in Baltimore County. The next primary election will be held in March 2008 thus increasing expenditures in fiscal 2008; and the next general election will be held in November 2008 thus increasing expenditures in fiscal 2009.

Source: Baltimore County and the Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 376 (Senator Klausmeier) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2007
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