Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 545   (Senators Pinsky and Harris)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Open Ballot Voting - Nomination by Multiple Political Parties

This bill allows a person who is not affiliated with a political party to hold an office with or be nominated by the political party if allowed under the party's constitution and bylaws. The candidate must be indicated on the ballot separately for each nominating political party and must file a statement with the State Board of Elections (SBE) accepting the nomination of a political party the candidate is not affiliated with in order to be listed on the ballot as being nominated by the party. The vote count for a candidate that is the nominee of more than one political party is the total of all votes received by the candidate for that office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by approximately $100,000 in FY 2008 only to make changes to SBE software.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
GF Expenditure	100,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	($100,000)	$0	$0	$0	$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the exception of judicial office and county board of education candidates, an individual must be affiliated with a political party in order to be nominated by the party. A candidate who is not affiliated with a political party may be nominated by petition.

Background: New York allows for nomination of nonparty members. The members of the party committee representing the political subdivision of the office a candidate is to be nominated for (or another committee provided for under party rule) generally may authorize the nomination of a nonparty member by a majority vote.

State Fiscal Effect: SBE advises agency software would need to be altered to allow for multiple nominations to be received for one candidate and for ballots to be programmed to list a candidate multiple times for each nomination. The election management system would also need to be altered to allow the votes for a candidate listed more than once to be properly totaled. SBE advises these changes would total approximately $100,000 in fiscal 2008 based on current contract costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Caroline County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2007
ncs/jr

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