

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Bill 16

(Delegate Hixson, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Election Law - Absentee Ballot Applications - Deadline

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This bill requires an absentee ballot application, except for applications made in person at a local board of elections, to have been received by a local board 10 days preceding an election, rather than the Tuesday preceding an election.

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Fiscal Summary

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An application for an absentee ballot generally must be received no later than the Tuesday preceding an election though late applications can be made in person at the office of a voter's local board through the close of polls on election day.

**Background:** An unusually large number of absentee ballot applications were received by Maryland local election boards prior to the 2006 general election, putting a strain on local boards to meet the demand for absentee ballots. As a result, some voters did not receive absentee ballots in time to meet the November 6 ("before election day") mailing deadline.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington, Montgomery, Prince George's, Kent, and Worcester counties; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 30, 2007  
mll/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 20, 2007

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