

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 637
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Compensation for Election Judges - Prince George's County
PG 404-07

This bill increases the compensation for Prince George's County election judges from \$125 per day to not less than \$200 per day and for chief election judges from \$200 to not less than \$250 per day. Compensation for required training increases from \$25 to \$50.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures would increase by \$299,000 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 Prince George's County, a chief election judge is paid \$200 per day; other election judges are paid \$125 per day. Prince George's County election judges receive \$25 as compensation for completing a required training course.

Background: A number of jurisdictions experienced problems with recruitment of election judges during the 2006 elections and Baltimore City experienced a substantial problem during the 2006 primary of election judges not showing up for work, which led to a number of polling places opening late. Increasing election judge salaries has generally been suggested as a method of improving recruitment. Among the counties, chief election judge salaries range from \$120 to \$300 with a median salary of \$175. Salaries for regular election judges range from \$110 to \$250 with a median salary of \$145. Compensation for training is generally in the range of \$25 in most counties, though some consider compensation for training as part of a judges' election day salary.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County expenditures would increase by \$299,000 in fiscal 2008 and 2009, reflecting increased election judge staffing costs for the 2008 primary and general elections. This estimate assumes 520 chief election judges and 2,600 regular election judges would be needed for each election. It is assumed similar increases would be experienced in future election years. **Exhibit 1** shows the estimated expenditure increase for fiscal 2008.

Exhibit 1
Increased Compensation for Prince George's County Election Judges
Fiscal 2008

	<u>Number of Judges</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Salary</u>	<u>Increased Expenditures</u>
Chief Judge	520	\$200	\$250	\$26,000
Regular Judge	2,600	\$125	\$200	195,000
Training	3,120	\$25	\$50	<u>78,000</u>
				\$299,000

Source: Prince George's County and the Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2007
ncs/jr

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