

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1026
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Prince George's County - Board of License Commissioners - Petition
Requirement
PG 309-08**

This bill allows the Board of License Commissioners in Prince George's County to consider a petition presented to them as a factor in determining whether to take the action sought by the petition only if each of the petition's signatures has been verified by the County Board of Elections to be that of a county voter.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential significant impact on Prince George's County, depending on the petitions received by the Board of License Commissioners.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no law in Prince George's County that governs how the Board of License Commissioners is to consider a petition that has been presented to them.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County advises that this bill could have a potentially significant fiscal and operational impact on both the Board of License

Commissioners and the County Board of Elections. The actual impact would depend on the number of petitions received, the number of signatures on each petition that would require verification, and the stage in the election calendar in which the petition is submitted. The Board of License Commissioners advises it is generally presented with at least two petitions per month, and it is not unusual for each petition to have between 50 and 300 signatures that would need to be verified. The board further advises that decisions regarding any matter for which it has been presented with a petition would take longer to render, as it would have to wait for the County Board of Elections to verify the petition's signatures in order to use the petition as a determining factor in the decision. The inability of the Board of License Commissioners to make instantaneous decisions in such matters could result in operational difficulties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 129 (Senator Exum, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2008
mll/hlb

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