

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 397 (Delegate Smigiel)
Appropriations

Local Governments - Collective Bargaining - Citizen Votes

This bill prohibits a county or municipal corporation from enacting a law to contravene a binding vote of its citizens concerning the collective bargaining rights of a police, fire, emergency medical services, paramedic, rescue, or support employee.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential meaningful effect on certain county and municipal expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Collective bargaining rights in counties vary by jurisdiction. Certain county employees are granted collective bargaining rights through State law, county code, or by county charter. Charter counties and municipal corporations have the authority to enact a local law or ordinance to permit voluntary collective bargaining for a fire, EMS, paramedic, or rescue employee.

Background: The Maryland Municipal League reports that there are 14 municipalities that provide for collective bargaining, including Baltimore City. The Town of Elkton

passed an ordinance providing for collective bargaining in May 2005. In the City of Greenbelt, citizens voted for collective bargaining for their police officers in November 2005.

Local Fiscal Effect: Counties and municipalities that decide to authorize collective bargaining through voter referendum would be required to adhere to the results of that referendum. County or municipal expenditures could increase depending on the cost of collective bargaining agreements for public safety employees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Bowie, City of Takoma Park, Carroll County, Harford County, Prince George's County, Maryland Municipal League, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2008
mam/hlb

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Exhibit 1	
Municipal Collective Bargaining Agreements	
<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Bargaining Unit</u>
Annapolis	Labor & Trades Technical and Clerical Fire Department Police
Baltimore City	All City Employees (30 Units)
Bel Air	Police
Bowie	Public Works
College Park	Public Works
Cumberland	Public Works/Clerical/Administration Fire Department Police
Elkton	Police
Frederick	Police
Greenbelt	Police
Hagerstown	Public Works Light Plant Fire Department Police
Rockville	Labor & Maintenance Public Works Recreation & Parks Police
Takoma Park	Library, Public Works Housing, Recreation Administration Police
Mount Rainier	Public Works Police
Ocean City	Police

Source: Maryland Municipal League

