

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 671 (Senator Raskin)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Elections - Voter Registration and Voting - Age**

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This bill allows an individual who is at least age 16 to register to vote, provided the individual meets other voter registration requirements. The bill also specifies that an individual is not qualified to vote until the first general or special election that occurs while the individual is age 18 or older.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund expenditures may increase by \$35,000 in FY 2010 for computer programming modifications and printing cost. The bill does not substantively change the activities or operations of the State Board of Elections (SBE). Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	35,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$35,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures for boards of elections may increase minimally. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** In order to register to vote, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, at least age 18 (or will be on or before the next general or special election), and a resident of the State.

An individual is entitled to vote under the Maryland Constitution if the individual is a U.S. citizen, of the age of 18 years or older, and a resident of the State at the time of the close of registration prior to an election.

**Background:** A 2006 Court of Appeals opinion (*Lamone v. Capozzi*), which addressed the applicability of certain elections-related provisions of the Maryland Constitution to primary elections, led to subsequent changes in SBE policy regarding the eligibility of an individual under age 18, but who will be age 18 on or before the next general or special election, to register and vote in the primary that precedes that general or special election.

A February 8, 2008 Maryland Court of Appeals order required that all 17-year-old registered voters that would be 18 on or before the November 2008 general election be entitled to vote in the February 12, 2008 primary elections, with the exception of special or municipal elections conducted concurrent with the primary elections.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Motor Vehicle Administration will have to revise and reprint several forms and make programming changes to its computer system. Additional costs are expected to total \$35,000 in fiscal 2010. Legislative Services advises that if other legislation is enacted requiring the revision and reprinting of forms and/or computer programming modifications, economies of scale may be realized.

The State Board of Elections can handle the bill's changes with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local expenditures for boards of elections may increase by a minimal amount. For example, Prince George's County indicates that one part-time employee will be needed to register additional individuals at an estimated cost of \$15,000 annually. Most local boards of elections can be expected to handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** SB 31 of 2007 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but was referred to interim study.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections, Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore City, Harford County, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2009  
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