Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 63   (Delegates Ali and Bronrott)

Ways and Means

Candidacy Deadline Reform Act

This bill alters the deadline for withdrawing a certificate of candidacy to coincide with the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy and makes conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy is 9 p.m. on the Monday 10 weeks or 70 days before the day of the primary election. A person may withdraw their candidacy by filing a certificate of withdrawal within 10 days after the filing deadline. A person who has filed a certificate of candidacy for a special election to fill a vacancy for Representative in Congress may withdraw the certificate within two days after the filing deadline established in the Governor's proclamation declaring that an election be held.

If a certificate of withdrawal is filed, the certificate of candidacy is void, the person's name may not be submitted to the voters as a candidate unless a new certificate is filed by the deadline, and in most cases the filing fee for the certificate of candidacy may not be refunded.

In general, the name of a candidate that does not withdraw, and whose death or disqualification is not known to the applicable board (with which the certificate of candidacy was filed) by the tenth day after the certificate of candidacy filing deadline, appears on the primary election ballot. Special provisions apply to candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2009
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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510