

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 573

(Senators Stoltzfus and Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Wicomico County - Local Board of Elections - Compensation

This bill alters a specified salary (\$1,200 annually) for a substitute member of the Wicomico County Board of Elections to instead serve as a minimum salary requirement. The bill also eliminates a salary requirement for counsel to the board, allowing the counsel's salary to be set by the board in accordance with the county budget.

The provision altering the salary requirement applicable to a substitute member of the board of elections takes effect at the beginning of the next following term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill allows for salary changes to be made for substitute members of, and counsel to, the Wicomico County Board of Elections but does not directly affect county expenditures. Salaries for these two positions will continue to be set in accordance with the county budget.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Most counties have a local board of elections made up of three regular members and two substitute members (the Prince George's County board consists of five regular members and three substitute members and the Montgomery County board consists of five regular members and two substitute members). Members are generally nominated by the majority and principal minority party county central committees and

appointed by the Governor, subject to legislative confirmation. If a member of a local board dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes ineligible, the substitute member belonging to the same political party becomes a regular member of the local board and a new substitute member is appointed. The term of a member is four years and begins on the first Monday in June of each year following a gubernatorial election.

Each local board is authorized to appoint or retain as counsel an individual who is a registered voter of the county and admitted to practice law in the State.

Under State law, a substitute member of the Wicomico County Board of Elections and counsel to the board are both paid \$1,200 annually (in the case of the counsel, the \$1,200 is specified as paid in equal, quarterly installments). A local board may also provide, in accordance with the county budget, appropriate additional compensation to the counsel for services determined to be necessary. If not otherwise specified, the salary of counsel to a local board is set by the local board in accordance with the county budget.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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