

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1140

(The Minority Leader and Chair, Baltimore City
Delegation)

Ways and Means

Baltimore City - Republican Party Central Committee - Composition

This bill amends the composition of the Baltimore City Republican Party Central Committee to consist of 28 members elected at large, rather than 2 members being elected from each councilmanic district.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially impact Baltimore City finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The members of the Baltimore City Republican Party Central Committee are elected from each councilmanic district, with two being elected from each district. There are 14 councilmanic districts in Baltimore City. A principal political party must elect the members of a county central committee at a primary election.

The composition of the Baltimore City Republican Party Central Committee was last amended in 2005 to reduce the number of members elected from each councilmanic district from four to two, reflecting a change in the number of councilmanic districts (approved by city voters in 2002) from six 3-member districts to 14 single-member districts.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: The bill may increase costs associated with ballots for Republican voters in Baltimore City during future primary elections (the bill takes effect after the upcoming 2010 gubernatorial primary election) to the extent electing the 28 members of the Baltimore City Republican Party Central Committee at large requires an additional ballot page or pages to include all candidates for the committee on each ballot (as opposed to the two members a voter would currently vote for from the voter's councilmanic district). There are currently just over 31,000 active Republican registered voters in Baltimore City and SBE indicates the cost of an additional ballot page is approximately \$.45 per page. Ballot printing costs are shared by the State and counties. Any increase in costs is not expected to have a noticeable effect on State or Baltimore City finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2010
ncs/mwc

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