

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 214 (Senators Frosh and Madaleno)
 Judicial Proceedings

Notaries Public - Application - Recommendation and Approval

This bill requires the Secretary of State to review the qualifications of applicants for notary public appointments, and make recommendations regarding the sufficiency of the applicant’s qualifications to a senator representing the senatorial district and sub district in which the applicant resides. In addition, the bill eliminates the requirement that applicants from out-of-state be approved by a State senator.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$55,900 in FY 2011. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	55,900	70,300	73,500	76,900	80,500
Net Effect	(\$55,900)	(\$70,300)	(\$73,500)	(\$76,900)	(\$80,500)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: All applications for notary public commissions must be approved by the State senator representing the senatorial district in which an applicant resides. If the senate seat for the district in which an applicant resides is vacant, any State senator may approve the application. The Secretary of State approves applications only for notary

public commissions from out-of-state applicants, which must also be approved by any State senator. Once a notary public application is approved, the Governor appoints and commissions all notaries public.

State Expenditures: In fiscal 2009, the Secretary of State’s office processed 22,010 notary public commissions. Currently, the Secretary of the State’s office merely processes applications for commissions that have been approved by State senators representing the applicants. Under the terms of the bill, the Secretary of State’s office would have to review all new applications to ensure that applicants met the qualifications for notaries public. This would include confirming that applicants were residents of Maryland, verifying their references, and in general establishing that the applicants were “of good moral character and integrity,” as required by the statute.

General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$55,900 in fiscal 2011, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2010 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one notary investigator to carry out the expanded duties for the Secretary of State’s office. It includes salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$47,165
Operating Expenses	<u>8,723</u>
Total FY 2011 State Expenditures	\$55,888

Future year expenditures reflect full salary with 4.4% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2010
ncs/hlb

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