

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 856
Ways and Means

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Election Law - Montgomery County Republican and Democratic Party Central
Committees - Membership**
MC 15-10

This bill repeals provisions of State law that establish the membership of the Montgomery County Republican Party Central Committee. Under existing provisions, if not otherwise provided in State law, the central committee for a county consists of the number of members determined by the party's constitution. The bill also amends the membership criteria of the Montgomery County Democratic Party Central Committee to require that the number of members elected at large be equal to the number of legislative districts that lie wholly within Montgomery County, except that not more than two members at large may reside in the same legislative district.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010, and applies to the election of the members of the committees at the primary election on September 14, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$5,000 to modify the State Board of Elections' (SBE) election management system. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None. The bill is not expected to directly affect Montgomery County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law specifies that the Montgomery County Republican Party Central Committee consists of 19 members and the Montgomery County Democratic Party Central Committee consists of 23 members. For each of the committees: (1) two members are elected from each of the legislative districts that lie wholly within Montgomery County; (2) one member is elected from the Montgomery County part of each legislative district that is partially within the county; and (3) the remaining members are elected at large.

Background: There are eight legislative districts in Montgomery County, all of which lie wholly within the county. As a result, 16 members of the Montgomery County Republican Party Central Committee are currently elected by district and 3 are elected at large and 16 members of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee are elected by district and seven are elected at large.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$5,000 to modify SBE's election management system to ensure no more than two at large members of the Montgomery County Democratic Party Central Committee reside in the same legislative district. This estimate is based on a vendor estimate provided to SBE.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2010
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