

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 913

(Senators Colburn and Pipkin)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Caroline County - Board of Elections - Membership and Compensation**

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This bill alters the membership of the Caroline County Board of Elections to consist of five regular members instead of three regular members and two substitute members. Three of the regular members must be of the majority party and two must be of the principal minority party. If a vacancy occurs on the board, the Governor must appoint an eligible person from the same political party as the predecessor member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The bill also increases the minimum annual compensation amount for members of the board of elections in Caroline County. The minimum compensation of the president of the board is increased from \$2,750 to \$3,250, and the minimum compensation of the other regular members is increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000, not including reimbursement for expenses.

The bill takes effect June 6, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Caroline County expenditures increase minimally in FY 2011 and by approximately \$2,800 annually beginning in FY 2012 due to increased costs of compensation of board members. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Most counties, including Caroline County, have a local board of elections made up of three regular members and two substitute members. Two regular members and one substitute member must be of the majority party and one regular member and one substitute member must be of the principal minority party. The board of elections in Montgomery County consists of five regular members and two substitute members, and the board in Prince George's County consists of five regular members and three substitute members. Effective June 6, 2011, the boards of elections in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties will consist of just five regular 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 must meet to elect one of its regular members president within 20 days after the beginning of the term.

Each regular member of a local board receives the salary and reimbursement of expenses provided in the county budget, but minimum amounts are set in State law for the members in each county. In Caroline County, the annual compensation for regular members may not be less than \$2,750 for the president and \$2,500 for other regular members. Statute specifies that a substitute member of a local board must be compensated for each day of service as provided in the county budget, and, unless otherwise provided, at a rate of at least \$25 for each meeting of the board that the substitute member attends.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Caroline County expenditures increase minimally in fiscal 2011 (due to the bill's June 6, 2011 effective date) and by approximately \$2,800 per year, beginning in fiscal 2012, accounting for increased compensation paid to the two additional regular members in comparison to the compensation of the current substitute members. The substitute members are currently paid an annual salary of \$1,200 plus additional compensation of \$100 per day for specified work. The president of the board is paid \$3,250, and other regular members are paid \$3,000. Because the regular members are currently paid the amounts that the bill increases the members' minimum annual compensation to, it is assumed that change will not have a fiscal impact.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Caroline County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2011  
sdk/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 28, 2011

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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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