

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 604
Ways and Means

(Charles County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Charles County - Board of Elections - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Charles 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 takes effect June 6, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County expenditures increase minimally in FY 2011 and by \$4,600 annually beginning in FY 2012 due to increased costs of compensation of board members. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Most counties, including Charles 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.

Local Fiscal Effect: Charles County expenditures increase minimally in fiscal 2011 (due to the bill's June 6, 2011 effective date) and by \$4,600 each year, beginning in fiscal 2012, accounting for increased salaries paid to the two additional regular members in comparison to the salaries of the current substitute members. Currently, in Charles County the salaries of the regular members and substitute members are \$3,300 and \$1,200, respectively, not accounting for fringe benefits. The estimate of \$4,600 accounts for a 10% fringe benefit rate.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2011
mm/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2011

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