

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 689
Ways and Means

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Board of Elections - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Harford 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: Harford County finances will not be affected. Aside from the board president, Harford County provides the same compensation to regular and substitute members.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Most counties, including Harford 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 192 (Harford County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2011
mlm/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2011

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