Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 50   (Delegate Otto)

Rules and Executive Nominations

Somerset County - County Commissioners - Districts

This emergency bill redistricts the five Somerset County commissioner districts from which the Somerset County Commissioners are elected. The bill also specifies that the candidate filing deadline for a candidate to the Somerset County Board of Education will be reopened for a period of time that extends through the effective date of the bill until 12:00 p.m. on the second business day following the effective date of the bill. In addition, an individual who files for membership of the Somerset County Board of Education is prohibited from withdrawing his or her candidacy.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Somerset County Board of Elections can make adjustments to the county commissioner districts with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are five county commissioner districts in Somerset County and each commissioner is elected to serve four year terms. The Somerset County Board of Education is comprised of five members who are elected from county commissioner districts.

Somerset County is one of eight counties that operate under the county commission form of government. Commission counties have limited powers and only those powers that

are expressly delegated by the General Assembly. Changing the boundaries of commissioner districts must receive approval of the General Assembly.

Background: The current boundaries of commissioner districts in Somerset County were created by Chapter 391 of 2002.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 46 (Senator Mathias) - Reapportionment and Redistricting.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 11, 2012
ncs/hlb

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