

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 169

(Senator Shank)

Judicial Proceedings

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Notary Public - Appointment

This bill authorizes a State senator to delegate the senator’s authority to approve applications for notary public commissions to the Secretary of State. If a senator delegates this authority (1) the application must bear or be accompanied by the written approval of the Secretary of State; and (2) the Governor may appoint and commission the applicant as a notary public as currently provided in statute upon the approval of the Secretary of State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$22,000 in FY 2013. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	22,000	27,400	29,200	30,600	32,100
Net Effect	(\$22,000)	(\$27,400)	(\$29,200)	(\$30,600)	(\$32,100)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: All applications for notary public commissions must be approved by the State senator representing the senatorial district in which an applicant resides. If the senate seat for the district in which an applicant resides is vacant, any State senator may approve the application. The Secretary of State approves applications only for notary

public commissions from out-of-state applicants, which must also be approved by any State senator. Once a notary public application is approved, the Governor appoints and commissions all notaries public.

State Fiscal Effect: In fiscal 2010, the Secretary of State’s office processed almost 22,000 notary public commissions. Currently, the Secretary of State’s office merely processes applications for commissions that have been approved by State senators representing the applicants. Under the terms of the bill, the Secretary of State’s office must review new applications from State senators who delegated their authority to ensure that applicants meet the qualifications for notaries public. This process includes confirming that applicants are residents of Maryland, verifying applicants’ references, and generally establishing that applicants are “of good moral character and integrity” as required by statute.

General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$22,023 in fiscal 2013, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2012 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time administrative specialist to carry out the expanded duties for the Secretary of State’s office. It includes salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$19,996
Operating Expenses	<u>\$2,027</u>
Total FY 2013 State Expenditures	\$22,023

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2012
mc/hlb

Analysis by: Amy A. Devadas

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