

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 840 (Senator Stone)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Voting - Notice of Election by Specimen Ballot

This bill requires that specimen ballots be mailed at least one week before the first day of any early voting period before an election rather than at least one week before an election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to impact local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A local board of elections must provide notice of each election in its county to the registered voters of the county either by specimen ballot mailed at least one week before the election or publication or dissemination by mass communication during the calendar week preceding the election. A local board must also provide notice of each ballot question in a general election either by specimen ballot mailed at least one week before the general election or by publication or dissemination by mass communication during the three weeks immediately preceding the general election.

If a local board provides notice of elections by mailing specimen ballots, it must mail a specimen ballot to each registered voter in the county eligible to vote in the election and the specimen ballot must be a facsimile of the ballot the voter is entitled to vote in the

election. In Prince George's County, for the general election, specimen ballots are mailed to the household of each registered voter in the county.

State Board of Elections regulations require election directors to mail, by nonforwardable mail, specimen ballots to all registered voters in their respective jurisdictions before every regularly scheduled general election for purposes of identifying and, when appropriate, removing individuals from the voter registration list that have moved outside of the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Kent, Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

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mlm/hlb

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