

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 991

(Delegates Haddaway-Riccio and Eckardt)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Queen Anne's County and Talbot County - Board of Elections - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Queen Anne's County and Talbot County boards of elections by requiring the board 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 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Queen Anne's County and Talbot County finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In 12 counties, including Queen Anne's County and Talbot County, the local board of elections consists 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 nine counties and Baltimore City switched from consisting of three regular members and two substitute members to consisting of five regular members, pursuant to various laws enacted in 2010 and 2011. Effective June 1, 2015, the board of elections in Carroll County will also switch to five regular members rather than three regular members and two substitute members.

Board 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, or in the case of boards with only regular members, a new regular 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 918 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne's and Talbot counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2014
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