

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1022
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Howard County and Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Membership
and Compensation of Boards**
PG 309-14

This bill increases the membership of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners from five to nine members. The bill also repeals the existing statutory compensation amounts set in statute for members of the Appointed Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board and instead authorizes the Howard County Council to set the compensation for board members.

The bill generally takes effect July 1, 2014. The provision that authorizes the Prince George's County central committees to submit their lists of eligible commissioner candidates to the Governor takes effect June 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$68,000 annually beginning in FY 2015 to provide stipends to the new commissioners. Howard County expenditures increase by approximately \$1,525 annually beginning in FY 2015 due to anticipated increases in compensation for hearing board members. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In Prince George's County, eight of the nine commissioners must come from the political party obtaining the highest number of votes in the last gubernatorial general election in the county. One commissioner must come from the political party obtaining the second highest number of votes in the county election.

The Governor must appoint at least one commissioner from each legislative district in Prince George's County. Before making the appointments or filling any vacancy, the Governor must request the Prince George's County central committees representing each of the two leading political parties of the State to designate at least four eligible candidates for each position. The central committees may submit their list of eligible candidates for commissioner to the Governor on or after June 1, 2014. Each central committee must designate each commissioner serving on June 30, 2014, as an eligible candidate, unless two or more commissioners reside in the same legislative district, in which case the central committee must designate only one commissioner as an eligible candidate from that legislative district.

The Governor must appoint from lists of candidates designated by the central committees unless the Governor determines all of the candidates to be unfit or incompetent, in which case the Governor must file a written statement to that effect with the Secretary of State. The central committee must then submit an additional list of six candidates for the Governor to consider.

The term of a commissioner is three years. The terms of the commissioners serving on July 1, 2014, are staggered as provided in the bill.

Current Law: In Prince George's County, the Board of License Commissioners consists of five members. The Governor must appoint four of the five commissioners from the political party obtaining the highest number of votes in the last gubernatorial general election in the county, and the Governor must appoint one commissioner from the political party obtaining the next highest number of votes in the county election.

Before making the appointments or filling any vacancy, the Governor must request the central committees for Prince George's County representing each of the two leading political parties of the State to designate at least four eligible candidates for each position. The appointment must be one of the persons so designated unless in the Governor's judgment all of the persons are unfit or incompetent, in which case a written statement to that effect must be filed with the Secretary of State. The statement must set forth the facts and the grounds for that judgment and call upon the committees for the county for another list of six names for each position to be filled, from which list and the original list the appointments must be made.

The term of a board member is three years. The terms of the members are staggered.

In Howard County, the Appointed Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board consists of five members, one from each councilmanic district, and each member receives compensation for the performance of their duties. The compensation for the hearing board chairperson is \$55 per meeting attended, not to exceed \$1,300 in a fiscal year. The compensation for each of the other four hearing board members is \$50 per meeting attended, not to exceed \$1,200 in a fiscal year.

Background: The eight legislative districts currently located in Prince George's County are districts 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 47. Each of these eight legislative districts has both a Democratic and Republican central committee.

Local Expenditures: Beginning in fiscal 2015, Prince George's County incurs a \$68,000 increase in annual expenditures due to an additional \$17,000 in stipend expenses for each new commissioner.

In Howard County, the bill authorizes the county council to set the new compensation rates for members of the hearing board. Howard County estimates that total compensation for hearing board members increases by approximately 25% beginning in fiscal 2015. Based on the current maximum annual compensation of \$6,100 for the entire five-member hearing board, Howard County expenditures increase by an estimated \$1,525 annually beginning in fiscal 2015.

Additional Comments: The bill does not address what happens in the event future State redistricting impacts the number of legislative districts in Prince George's County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Howard and Prince George's counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2014
ncs/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2014

Analysis by: Trevor S. Owen

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