

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 16  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Smigiel)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Cecil County - Board of Elections - Membership

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This bill alters the membership of the Cecil County Board 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.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Cecil County finances are not affected since regular members and substitute members of the board of elections receive the same annual compensation.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In 12 counties, including Cecil 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None designated; however, SB 243 (Cecil County Senators – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is identical.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections, Cecil County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2014  
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