

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 97

(Senator Norman, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Counting of Properly Cast Ballots

This bill requires that a ballot properly cast by a voter who dies before the ballot is canvassed be counted in full unless a law or regulation requires that the ballot be fully or partially rejected for a reason unrelated to the death of the voter.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Pursuant to State law, a local board of elections must reject an absentee ballot if, before the ballot is canvassed, the board determines that the voter died before election day. In contrast with that requirement, a vote cast during early voting (a method of voting more recently added to State law) is counted regardless of whether the voter dies before election day.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although HB 884 (Delegate Lisanti, *et al.* – Ways and Means) is not designated as a cross file, it is identical.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Harford and Montgomery counties, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2015
md/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 20, 2015

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