

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 129 (Senator Zirkin)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County - Polling Places on Campuses

This bill requires the Baltimore County Board of Elections to establish at least one polling place at each public or private institution of higher education in Baltimore County that has residential student housing on its campus. If a polling place is established at an institution of higher education that receives State funds, the institution must provide a facility that meets all polling place requirements, at no charge, and assist the board in recruiting election judges to staff the polling place.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$8,300 in FY 2019, and by \$4,500 each fiscal year thereafter. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	8,300	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Net Effect	(\$8,300)	(\$4,500)	(\$4,500)	(\$4,500)	(\$4,500)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Baltimore County expenditures increase by approximately \$28,300 in FY 2019, \$29,100 in FY 2020, and \$21,200 each fiscal year thereafter. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: As it deems expedient for the convenience of voters, a local board of elections may (1) create and alter the boundaries for precincts in the county; (2) designate the location for polling places in any election district, ward, or precinct in the county; and (3) combine or abolish precincts.

A local board must establish a separate precinct on campus, or within one-half mile of the campus, to specifically serve a public or private institution of higher education if the local board determines that at least 500 students, faculty, and staff who attend or work at the institution are registered voters in the precinct in which the institution is located. A local board is not required to establish a separate precinct if there is already an established precinct within one-half mile of the public or private institution of higher education's campus that serves the voters who attend or work at the institution.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$1,700 in fiscal 2019, and by \$900 each fiscal year thereafter, for each additional polling place established under the bill. The Baltimore County Board of Elections has identified five campuses on which a polling place would need to be established under the bill, which results in a total general fund expenditure increase of 8,300 in fiscal 2019 and \$4,500 in each fiscal year thereafter. This estimate accounts for voting system costs that the State shares with the counties pursuant to Chapter 564 of 2001.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore County expenditures increase by approximately \$5,700 in fiscal 2019, \$5,800 in fiscal 2020, and \$4,200 each fiscal year thereafter, for each additional polling place established under the bill. Establishing polling places on each of the five campuses identified by the Baltimore County Board of Elections results in a total expenditure increase of \$28,300 in fiscal 2019, \$29,100 in fiscal 2020, and \$21,200 in each fiscal year thereafter. This estimate includes the county's share of voting system costs and costs for election judges, E-poll books, signs, and supplies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; University System of Maryland; Independent College and University Association; Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2018
md/hlb

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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