

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 651

(Senator Young)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Membership

This bill alters the membership of seven local boards of elections – in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, and St. Mary’s counties – by requiring the boards to consist of five regular members instead of three regular members and two substitute members, which is consistent with the membership of local boards of elections in other counties, with the exception of Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. Three regular members must be of the majority party, and two regular members must be of the principal minority party. If a vacancy occurs on a 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, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures increase by a relatively minimal amount for counties affected by the bill, to the extent increased salaries are paid to the two additional regular members in comparison to the salaries of the current substitute members. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, and St. Mary’s counties, 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 boards of elections in Carroll, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties also switched 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.

Local Expenditures: Local government expenditures increase for counties affected by the bill, to the extent increased salaries are paid to the two additional regular members in comparison to the salaries of the current substitute members. In Baltimore County, for example, expenditures increase by approximately \$13,200 annually, to pay two board members the compensation for regular members instead of the compensation for substitute members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

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