

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 172

(Chair, Ways and Means Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - State Board of Elections)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law – Voter Registration Deadlines

This departmental bill alters the time of day, on the twenty-first day preceding an election, at which voter registration closes. Instead of closing at 9 p.m. on the twenty-first day preceding an election, voter registration closes at (1) 5 p.m. for applications and changes to voter registration records submitted by a method other than through the State Board of Elections’ (SBE) online voter registration system and (2) 11:59 p.m. for applications and changes to voter registration records submitted through SBE’s online voter registration system. The bill correspondingly repeals requirements that SBE and the local boards of elections remain open until 9 p.m. on the day of the close of voter registration prior to each election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures decrease minimally each fiscal year, beginning in FY 2020. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures decrease minimally each fiscal year, beginning in FY 2020. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: SBE has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: With the exception of voter registration during early voting, voter registration is closed beginning at 9 p.m. on the twenty-first day preceding an election until the eleventh day after that election. The State and local boards of elections must remain open until 9 p.m. on the day of the close of voter registration prior to each election.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: General fund and local government expenditures decrease minimally each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal 2020, due to savings in personnel and other costs as a result of the deadline for voter registration by methods other than online registration being moved from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Montgomery and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2019
an/hlb Third Reader - March 18, 2019
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 18, 2019
Enrolled - April 25, 2019
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 25, 2019

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Election Law - Voter Registration and Security of Voter Registration Information

BILL NUMBER: HB 172

PREPARED BY: Jared DeMarinis
Director of Candidacy and Campaign Finance

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON
MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS