

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 840 (Senator Ready)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions – Full Year Daylight Savings Time

This bill requires the standard time in the State to be Eastern Daylight Time year round, which would establish year-round daylight saving time (DST) in the State. This change is contingent on the appropriate federal law being amended to allow a state, individually, to observe a year-round standard time that is consistent with Eastern Daylight Time. The Secretary of State must monitor any related changes to federal law and report notice of any change to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). If DLS receives notice of the change by December 31, 2026, this change takes effect the second Sunday in March or the first Sunday in November after the change takes effect, whichever occurs first. If DLS does not receive notice of any change by December 31, 2026, the bill terminates. **The bill's monitoring and notice requirements take effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Secretary of State can monitor action by the federal government and, if necessary, report to DLS within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the federal Uniform Time Act, a state may exempt itself from observing DST by state law. If a state chooses to observe DST, it must begin and end on federally mandated dates. The law does not allow a state to observe DST year round.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 517 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1610, was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2021
rh/jc

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