

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 544 (Senator Ready)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Casting General Election Ballot in Multiple States - Prohibition

This bill prohibits a person from willfully and knowingly casting a ballot in a general election in more than one state in the same year. A person who violates the prohibition is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under Maryland law, a person may not willfully and knowingly (1) vote more than once for a candidate for the same office or for the same ballot question or (2) vote or attempt to vote more than once in the same election, or vote in more than one election district or precinct. A person who violates those prohibitions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

Under federal law, a person who votes more than once in an election must be fined up to \$10,000 and/or imprisoned for up to five years. The prohibition applies with respect to any general, special, or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting or electing any candidate for specified offices, including the office of President,

Vice President, presidential elector, member of the U.S. Senate, or member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 800 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the State Prosecutor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2022
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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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