

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 287

(Senators Gallion and Carozza)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

State Board of Elections - Municipal Elections - Publication of Results on Website

This bill requires a municipality to submit an electronic copy of its election results to the State Board of Elections (SBE) within 30 days after the results are certified, and SBE must publish the results on its website immediately after a municipality submits them.

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

Bill Summary: The bill requires a municipality to, within 30 days after the results of a municipal election are certified, submit to SBE an electronic copy of the election results for each office or question voted on at the election, including:

- vote totals for each office or question, reported separately by each of the following voting methods, if applicable: (1) in-person early voting; (2) mail-in voting or vote-by-mail; (3) provisional voting; and (4) in-person election day voting; and
- the party affiliation of each candidate if the municipality conducts partisan elections.

The bill requires SBE to, immediately after a municipality submits its election results, publish the election results on the SBE website. The election results published by SBE must be organized by election year and the name of the municipality.

Current Law: Under State election law, which generally governs all elections except municipal elections (other than in Baltimore City), each local board of elections must prepare a statement of election results by precinct for each candidate or question voted on at an election and declare:

- who is elected or nominated for office (1) in county government or (2) for any other office voted for only within that county, if the certificate of candidacy for that office was issued by the local board; and
- whether or not a question is adopted or approved.

The statement prepared by the local board of elections may not report the absentee vote separately by precinct. Each local board must publish a sufficient number of copies of the complete election results, tabulated by precinct, and must make the copies available to the public at cost.

In addition to the statement of election results prepared by each local board of elections, SBE must make available in an electronic format a report of election results for each candidate or question voted on at an election (1) by precinct; (2) by State legislative district, including any subdistrict; (3) by county legislative district; and (4) for each county as a whole. SBE may make the report of election results available to the public at cost.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 509 (Delegate Tomlinson, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Arnold Adja

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