

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 292 (Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Secretary of  
State)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Health and Government Operations

---

State Government - Deputy Secretary of State - Title

---

This departmental bill renames the title of *Assistant* Secretary of State to *Deputy* Secretary of State. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Secretary of State has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

---

Analysis

**Current Law/Background:**

*The Secretary of State – Generally*

The Secretary of State is responsible for a variety of executive functions, including attesting to the Governor’s signature on public documents such as executive orders, extraditions, and pardons, and certifying candidates for nomination to appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other duties include administering the State’s notary public laws and processing notary commissions, regulating charitable organizations, administering the Address Confidentiality Program, publishing administrative regulations

in the Maryland Register and the Code of Maryland Regulations, and overseeing specified responsibilities delegated by the Governor. The Office of the Secretary of State advises that the title “Deputy Secretary of State” has been used for many years, so the bill is conforming statute to current practice.

*Specified Provisions Regarding the Assistant Secretary of State*

*Suspension and Termination of Special Police Officer Commissions:* Under the Public Safety Article, the Governor may appoint and deputize an individual as a special police officer. Such a commission includes arrest powers, but the scope of each commission is limited to the property cited in the commission. The Governor may also suspend or terminate a commission, as specified. Among other things, the Governor may delegate the power to suspend or terminate a commission to the Secretary of State, the Assistant Secretary of State, or both.

*Appointment of an Assistant Secretary of State:* The Governor may appoint an Assistant Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State is absent from the seat of the State government or ill, the Assistant Secretary of State may carry out any duty that is imposed by law on the secretary.

*Denial, Revocation, and Suspension of Commissions for Notaries Public:* Generally, the Governor may deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend, or impose conditions on a commission as a notary public for any act or omission that demonstrates the individual lacks the honesty, integrity, competence, or reliability to act as a notary, as specified. In addition, the Governor may delegate to the Secretary of State or the Assistant Secretary of State the authority to take specified actions regarding the sanction of a notary public.

---

**Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2024  
rh/mcr Third Reader - January 31, 2024

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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

## **ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL: State Government - Deputy Secretary of State - Title**

**BILL NUMBER: SB0292**

**PREPARED BY: Michael Lore**

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

**\_X\_** 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

N/A