

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 287
Ways and Means

(Delegate Harris)

Election Law - Party and Elected Public Offices - Prohibition

This bill establishes that an individual may not simultaneously hold a party office and an elected public office. The bill establishes, however, that this provision does not apply to an individual who simultaneously holds an elected public office and holds the office of delegate to the national presidential nominating convention. “Party office” means the office of a member of a county central committee of a political party.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Simultaneous Candidacy

Unless otherwise prohibited by rule of the applicable political party, an individual simultaneously may be a candidate for a political party office and a public office. An individual, however, may not simultaneously be a candidate for more than one public office or more than one political party office.

Qualifications for Candidacy

An individual may become a candidate for a public or party office only if the individual satisfies the qualifications for that office established by law and, in the case of a party office, by party constitution or bylaws.

Political Party Governance

Each political party must have a State central committee that is the governing body of the political party and may be composed of the members of the central committees of the counties during their terms in office. A principal political party must elect the members of a county central committee at a primary election.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 80 and SB 812 of 2024; HB 742 of 2023; and HB 160 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 16, 2025
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