

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 907

(Delegate Kach)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Electronic Voting System Devices - Ballot Arrangement

This bill requires that all candidates for the same office appear on the same ballot face on a direct recording electronic voting system device, to the extent practicable.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each ballot must (1) be easily understandable by voters; (2) present all candidates and questions in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner; (3) permit the voter to easily record a vote on questions and on the voter's choices among candidates; (4) protect the secrecy of each voter's choices; and (5) facilitate the accurate tabulation of the choices of the voters.

On a voting machine ballot, the arrangement must use the smallest number of rows or columns necessary, as evenly sized as possible, to accommodate all offices and candidates on the ballot. If applicable to the voting system and the requirements of an election, instructions must be printed on each ballot stating that additional candidates or questions appear on the reverse side of the ballot face or on other ballot faces.

Background: The State currently uses a direct recording electronic voting system, but a transition to an optical scan, paper-based voting system is expected for the 2016 elections.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2013
mc/hlb

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