

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 864  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Kent County - Board of Elections - Membership**

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This bill alters the membership of the Kent County Board of Elections by requiring the board to consist of five regular members instead of three regular members and two substitute members. Three of the regular members must be of the majority party and two must be of the principal minority party. If a vacancy occurs on the board, the Governor must appoint an eligible person from the same political party as the predecessor member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015, or the effective date of Chapter 102 of 2012 and Chapters 47 and 105 of 2014, if the effective date for those chapters is amended.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Kent County expenditures increase minimally in FY 2015 and by \$3,600 annually beginning in FY 2016 due to increased costs of compensation of board members. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In 12 counties, including Kent County, the local board of elections consists of three regular members and two substitute members. Two regular members and one substitute member must be of the majority party and one regular member and

one substitute member must be of the principal minority party. The board of elections in Montgomery County consists of five regular members and two substitute members, and the board in Prince George's County consists of five regular members and three substitute members. Effective June 6, 2011, the boards of elections in nine counties and Baltimore City switched from consisting of three regular members and two substitute members to consisting of five regular members, pursuant to various laws enacted in 2010 and 2011. Effective June 1, 2015, the boards of elections in Carroll, Cecil, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties will also switch to five regular members rather than three regular members and two substitute members.

Board members are generally nominated by the majority and principal minority party county central committees and appointed by the Governor, subject to legislative confirmation. If a member of a local board dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes ineligible, the substitute member belonging to the same political party becomes a regular member of the local board and a new substitute member is appointed, or in the case of boards with only regular members, a new regular member is appointed. The term of a member is four years and begins on the first Monday in June of each year following a gubernatorial election.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Kent County expenditures increase minimally in fiscal 2015 (due to the bill's June 1, 2015 effective date) and by \$3,600 each year, beginning in fiscal 2016, accounting for increased salaries paid to the two additional regular members in comparison to the salaries of the current substitute members. Currently, in Kent County the salary of the regular members is \$3,000 and the salary of the substitute members is \$100 per meeting.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** Although designated as a cross file, SB 20 (Senator Hershey - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is not identical.

**Information Source(s):** Kent County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2015  
min/hlb

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