

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 221 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law – State Administrator of Elections – Term

This bill establishes a term of office of 12 years for the State Administrator of Elections (State administrator), with the first term beginning on January 1, 2019. The State administrator is eligible for reappointment and, at the end of a term, continues to serve until a successor is appointed by the State Board of Elections, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Any State administrator in office before January 1, 2019, is eligible to apply for and be appointed as State administrator for the 12-year term that begins on January 1, 2019. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State administrator is the chief State election official, is appointed by the State Board of Elections, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serves at the pleasure of the State board. The State administrator's responsibilities include (1) employing and supervising a deputy administrator and other staff of the State board; (2) supervising the operations of the local boards of elections; and (3) performing all duties and exercising all powers that are assigned by law to the State administrator or delegated by the State board.

Provided the State board is fully constituted with five duly confirmed members, the State administrator is subject to removal by the affirmative vote of four duly confirmed members of the State board for incompetence, misconduct, or other good cause.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2018
md/hlb

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