

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 357 (Senator Ready, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Voter Registration Integrity Act of 2018

This bill requires that information concerning individuals who are not U.S. citizens be provided by a jury commissioner to the State Board of Elections (SBE) within five days of receiving the information. The bill also establishes actions to be taken by the State Administrator of Elections and local election directors with respect to that information.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill modifies an existing requirement relating to rules adopted by the Court of Appeals concerning the disclosure of jury information to SBE. Specifically, the bill requires that a jury commissioner provide information concerning individuals who are not U.S. citizens to SBE within five days of receiving the information.

The State Administrator of Elections must make arrangements with the jury commissioner of the circuit court for each county to receive reports of the names and addresses of individuals who were summoned as prospective jurors and indicated that they are not U.S. citizens. The State Administrator must (1) maintain a list of such individuals; (2) within 30 days after receipt of an individual's information, direct the appropriate election director to remove the individual from the statewide voter registration list; and

(3) publish annually on the SBE website the number of such individuals who have been removed from the statewide voter registration list.

Each local election director must remove from the statewide voter registration list an individual (1) who the election director has determined is not a U.S. citizen or (2) whom the election director has been directed by the State Administrator to remove. Each election director must also submit to the State Administrator a quarterly report of such individuals who are removed from the statewide voter registration list.

Current Law: Access to information about prospective, qualified, and sworn jurors may be allowed only in accordance with rules adopted by the Court of Appeals. The rules must provide for disclosure of information to SBE as to individuals who have died, have moved, or are not U.S. citizens.

SBE regulations address the confidentiality of juror information received from a jury commissioner and include steps to be taken to remove from the statewide voter registration list individuals reported in the information to not be U.S. citizens.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 842 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1354, received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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