

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 503

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Rules and Executive Nominations

Reapportionment and Redistricting

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Montgomery County - Board of Education Residence Districts - Ken Gar  
Neighborhood  
MC 26-22

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This emergency bill modifies the boundaries of two Montgomery County Board of Education residence districts (specifically, District 3 and District 4) for the purpose of changing the district in which the Ken Gar neighborhood is located (from District 4 to District 3).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The State Board of Elections (SBE) potentially realizes minimal general fund cost savings in FY 2022 and annually thereafter, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The Montgomery County Board of Elections can implement the change with existing resources and potentially realizes cost savings in FY 2022 and future years in which a primary or general election occurs, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The boundaries of local board of education districts must be redrawn every 10 years following the decennial census to adjust for population changes. Chapter 33 of the 2021 special session, an emergency Act, adjusted the boundaries of the five Montgomery County Board of Education residence districts from which five school board members are elected.

The Montgomery County Board of Education consists of five members elected from five board of education districts, two members elected from the county at large, and one student member. Each of the five board of education districts must be substantially equal in population.

**State/Local Expenditures:** Montgomery County advises that the bill's change eliminates the need for the creation of a new precinct in the Ken Gar neighborhood, based on the board of education districts enacted under Chapter 33 and the council districts approved by the Montgomery County Council in December 2021, by aligning the board of education district boundary with the council district boundary. Thus, the Montgomery County Board of Elections potentially realizes cost savings in fiscal 2022 and annually thereafter, as costs related to the creation of a new precinct in this area are avoided under the bill. A specific estimate of the potential cost savings is not available at this time. However, based on past estimates of local boards of elections' share of equipment and other costs per polling place, cost savings potentially range from \$12,000 to \$23,000 in fiscal 2022 and from \$4,000 to \$11,000 annually thereafter.

SBE shares voting system costs with the local boards of elections in accordance with Chapter 564 of 2001. Thus, SBE potentially also realizes minimal cost savings as a result of the bill. While a specific estimate is not available at this time, based on past estimates of the State's share of equipment costs per polling place, general fund cost savings for SBE potentially amount to approximately \$2,500 in fiscal 2022 and \$1,000 annually thereafter.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Planning; Maryland State Board of Elections; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2022  
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