

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 896

(Senator Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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St. Mary's County Board of Elections - Salary

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This bill increases the minimum annual compensation of members of the St. Mary's County Board of Elections from \$800 to \$3,600.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011. The compensation provisions take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office after the bill's effective date.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** St. Mary's County expenditures may increase minimally in FY 2011 and by \$3,300 annually thereafter, due to the increased compensation of the regular members of the board of elections. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Most counties, including St. Mary's County, have a local board of elections made up 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 Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties will consist of just five regular members.

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. The term of a member is four years and begins on the first Monday in June of each year following a gubernatorial election.

Each regular member of a local board receives the salary and reimbursement of expenses provided in the county budget, but minimum amounts are set in State law for the members in each county. In St. Mary's County, the annual compensation for regular members may not be less than \$800.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** St. Mary's County expenditures may increase minimally in fiscal 2011 and by \$3,300 annually thereafter, due to the increased salaries of the three regular members of the board of elections. This reflects the difference between the current budgeted compensation for fiscal 2012 (\$2,500) and the minimum compensation of regular board members set by the bill. This also assumes the compensation of the regular members of the board of elections would not otherwise increase in future years. The minimal expenditure increase in fiscal 2011 reflects the portion of June 2011 in which the salary increases would be in effect (the next term of the board will begin June 6, 2011).

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 751 of 2008 passed the Senate and received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2011  
mm/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 28, 2011

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