

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1454 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Environmental Matters

**Task Force to Study the Terms, Pay, Operations, and Ethical Standards for
Various Elected Officials in Prince George's County
PG 422-13**

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Terms, Pay, Operations, and Ethical Standards for Various Elected Officials in Prince George's County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, and terminates December 31, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies that the task force must focus on various elected officials including the county executive, county council, State's Attorney, county sheriff, and register of wills. Issues the task force must study and make recommendations on include:

- methods to improve accountability, transparency, and oversight for officials;
- criteria for establishing and measuring office outcomes;

- criteria for comparing effectiveness of local elected officials to comparable elected officials in neighboring jurisdictions; and
- any other relevant issues.

The task force must hold at least three public meetings in geographically diverse areas of Prince George's County that allow members of the general public and stakeholder organizations to testify on issues being studied by the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Senate Delegation and House Delegation by October 1, 2013.

The task force is staffed by the Prince George's County Senate Delegation and House Delegation staff. A member of the task force may not receive compensation.

Current Law/Background: The county executive, county council, State's Attorney, sheriff, and register of wills in Prince George's County are elected to four-year terms. The pay of the county executive and county council is determined by recommendation of a compensation review board, subject to amendment by two-thirds vote of the county council, effective for the following term. The salaries of the State's Attorney and sheriff are established by the General Assembly, and the salary of a register of wills is established by the Board of Public Works, pursuant to requirements set forth by the General Assembly. The county executive and county council in Prince George's County are subject to the Prince George's County Code of Ethics and State's Attorneys, sheriffs, and registers of wills are subject to the Maryland Public Ethics Law established by the General Assembly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2013
mlm/kdm

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510