

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 359 (Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Military)
Health and Government Operations

Militia - Maryland Defense Force - Enlistment Period

This departmental bill changes the enlistment period for the Maryland Defense Force (MDF) from two years to a period determined by the commanding officer based on the specialty of the recruit and the needs of the State militia.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's provisions do not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Military Department has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: With certain specified exceptions, the Maryland militia consists of able-bodied individuals who are citizens of Maryland or of foreign birth who are residents of Maryland and have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States. The enlistment period in MDF is two years, which may be renewed. Chapter 23 of 2010 (SB 72) clarified the statutory eligibility for membership in the Maryland militia, so as to include U.S. citizens who take an oath of allegiance to the State.

Background: MDF is a volunteer service within the Military Department. According to the department, a service member typically serves in MDF for a period of more than

10 years, including enlistment renewals. The department believes that the statutory limit of two years on the initial enlistment creates an unnecessary administrative burden for reenlistments. By changing the enlistment period the bill reduces recordkeeping efforts for the department.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Military Department, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2013
ncs/lgc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Defense Force Enlistment Period

BILL NUMBER: HB 359

PREPARED BY: Military

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.