

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1127
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Prince George's County - Dissemination of Voter Information Material -
Multifamily Residential Structures
PG 408-16**

This bill expands to Prince George's County the requirement that the owner or governing board of a multifamily residential structure designate a public area within the structure where voter information may be distributed or deposited for the 60-day period prior to each primary and general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect the operations or finances of the State.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources in Prince George's County.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the Election Law Article, in Montgomery County only, the owner or governing board of a multifamily residential building, where access to the entrance of individual residential units is restricted by the owner or governing board of the entire building, must designate a public area within the building where, for 60 days immediately prior to each primary and general election, voter information material may be distributed or deposited. "Voter information material" includes campaign literature and registration or voting information issued by the State Board of Elections or a local board of elections.

The designated public area must be readily accessible to the residents. Voter information material deposited in the designated area must remain available for residents of the building for a period of at least 10 days. If the local board of elections is notified in writing by a person whose rights were violated, the local board of elections must notify the owner or governing board of the apparent violation, list these requirements, and request compliance.

Background: The Montgomery County Board of Elections is unaware of any complaints regarding restrictions on the dissemination of voter information material in multifamily residential structures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division), Secretary of State, Maryland State Board of Elections, Montgomery County Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

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kb/kdm

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