Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 323   (Delegate Otto)

Environment and Transportation

Somerset County - Commissioners - Residency Requirements

This bill requires a county commissioner in Somerset County elected from a commissioners' district to reside in that district during the six months preceding the election and throughout the commissioner's term of office. The bill exempts a county commissioner from this residency requirement during a term if the boundary of the commissioners' district is changed during that term. Under the bill, a county commissioner who does not maintain residency in the commissioner's elected district must resign, and the commissioner's office will be deemed vacant.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Somerset County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a candidate for public office in the State must be a registered voter at an address that satisfies any residency requirement for the office that is imposed by law. There is currently no reference to any residency requirements for county commissioners in the Public Local Laws of Somerset County.

Background: Chapter 700 of 1988 revised the Public Local Laws of Somerset County and removed a previous requirement that four county commissioners must reside in four specified commissioners' districts and a fifth county commissioner must be elected

from the county at-large. Currently, Somerset County is divided into five commissioners' districts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 336 (Senator Carozza) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2019
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Analysis by: Arnold Adja   Direct Inquiries to:
                                               (410) 946-5510
                                               (301) 970-5510