

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 07-41

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER

FOR the purpose of providing for the filling of vacancies in the office of County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County under certain circumstances.

BY ADDING a new Section 4-6 to Chapter 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

SECTION I. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the following section be added to the Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Chapter 4 Board of County Commissioners:

Article 1. County Commissioners

...

4-6. Vacancy

(a) In general

In the event any office of County Commissioner in Queen Anne's County shall become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled as follows:

(1) If at the time of such vacancy there is left sixteen (16) months or more in the term of office of the County Commissioner so vacating, the same shall be filled by a special general election, the date and place of which shall be established by the remaining County Commissioners or County Commissioner within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of such vacancy. Within thirty (30) days of the date of such vacancy, candidates for such office shall file their candidacy with the Queen Anne's County Board of Elections. Each such candidate, at the time of the vacancy in office, shall be a registered member of the party of the Commissioner so vacating and shall meet the residency requirements of the office, if any.

(2) In all other cases, through the procedure set forth in Article 25 Section 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the forty-sixth day following its passage.

Introduced By: Commissioner Courtney M. Billups

Co-Sponsored By: Commissioners Ransom, Wargotz and Gunther

Date: October 9, 2007

Public Hearing Held: October 23, 2007 @ 7:30 p.m.

Vote: 5 Yea 0 Nay

Date: October 23, 2007

Effective Date: December 1, 2007

FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

**Legislation No:** 0-07-41                      **Hearing Date:** 10-23-07  
**Date Introduced:** 10-9-07                      **Note Date:** 10-18-07

**Legislation Title:** Filling Vacancies in the Office of County Commissioners

**Description:**

The purpose of this legislation is to modify the way in which vacancies in the office of the County Commissioners are filled under certain circumstances, essentially by implementing a special general election, rather than an appointment by a Central Committee.

**Analysis of Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated cost to hold a special election is approximately \$112,000, based on information provided by the Board of Elections. Due to the fact that presidential primary and general elections are already scheduled to take place within the next 13 months, a special election for a vacant commissioner position would require additional Election staff and overtime, which would bring the total cost to approximately \$167,000. These amounts do not include possible charges from the State Board of Elections for databases, etc.