

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1099 (Delegate Vogel)
Rules and Executive Nominations

General Assembly - Term Limits

This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters at the next general election, limits a person to serving not more than four terms in the General Assembly. However, no term of office that began prior to the 2030 gubernatorial election may count towards the term limit. A person who served two or more years of a term as a member of the General Assembly to which another person was elected must be considered to have served a full term. The proposed amendment also alters language relating to members of the General Assembly so that they are gender neutral.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No discernible effect on State pension liabilities or contribution rates, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Members of the State Senate and the House of Delegates serve four-year terms. There are no limits on the number of consecutive or total terms they may serve.

Legislative Compensation

The 2022 Resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission (GACC) increased legislative salaries by 4% in each of calendar 2023 and 2024 and by 2% in each of calendar 2025 and 2026. The 2026 GACC Resolution, as introduced, increases legislative salaries by 1.75% in each of calendar 2027 and 2028, and by 2.75% in each of calendar 2029 and 2030. Thus, the annual salary for the Presiding Officers reaches \$80,406, and the annual salary for all other members reaches \$61,905. In addition, members each receive \$750 annually to be applied to in-district travel and are reimbursed for their lodging and travel expenses related to their service as members of the General Assembly. Compensation does not vary according to years of service.

Membership in the Legislative Pension Plan (LPP) is mandatory for elected members of the General Assembly. LPP members contribute 7% of their salary for up to 22 years and three months; contributions are not required beyond that time. They are vested in the plan after 8 years (two terms). Vested members are eligible for a full-service retirement allowance upon reaching age 60, if the member has earned creditable service in LPP before January 14, 2015, or at age 62 if creditable service is earned only after that date, as long as they are no longer serving in the General Assembly. Their annual retirement allowance is 3% of the salary of a current member of the General Assembly for each year of service credit but is capped at two-thirds of the salary of a current member.

For the purpose of calculating employer contributions, LPP is combined with the Employees' Retirement System, Employees' Pension System and Correctional Officers' Retirement System for the annual actuarial valuation. Therefore, employer contributions for LPP are the same as those for the employees' combined systems (ECS).

State Expenditures: Compensation for members of the General Assembly does not vary based on years of service, so the bill has no effect on total compensation.

Full LPP retirement benefits are earned upon reaching 22 years, three months of service in the General Assembly, and the proposed amendment would restrict members of the General Assembly to four terms (16 years). Therefore, on average, members likely earn fewer benefits than they otherwise would by virtue of serving fewer years in the General Assembly. However, any effect does not manifest during the 5-year period covered by this fiscal and policy note because the bill excludes any term that begins before January 2030 from the term limit. Moreover, given that LPP members represent 0.3% of total ECS membership, the reduction in benefit payments is expected to be minimal and have no discernible effect on State pension liabilities or contribution rates.

Additional Comment: This analysis is based on the LPP provisions contained in the 2026 GACC Resolution as introduced during the 2026 session, which is presumed to take

effect prior to the next legislative term beginning January 2027. However, the provisions governing LPP are subject to review and alteration by GACC every 4 years. If the term limits in the bill take effect, it is possible that the next GACC alters the provisions governing LPP such that members accrue full benefits after 16 years. Any such effect is speculative and not reflected in this analysis.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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