

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1260 (Delegate Taylor)

Economic Matters

Budget and Taxation

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund

This bill extends the termination date, from September 30, 2001 to September 30, 2006, relating to the authority of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to use Program Open Space (POS) funds to pay its operating expenses and debt service on its bonds.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would allow for the continued use of up to 10% of the \$1 million transferred from POS to the authority for operating expenses and up to 50% for debt service on bonds issued by the authority.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: For the period beginning October 1, 1996 and ending on September 30, 2001: (1) up to 10% of POS funds transferred to the authority may be used to pay the operating expenses of the authority; and (2) up to 50% of POS funds transferred to the authority may be expended for debt service on bonds issued by the authority.

Background: The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was created in 1996 to foster heritage tourism by creating additional historic and cultural destinations within the State.

The heritage areas fund receives \$1 million annually from the real estate transfer tax through POS. Chapter 740 of 1998 extended the sunset date relating to the use of POS funds for operating expenses and debt service from September 30, 1998 to September 30, 2001.

The fiscal 2002 budget includes \$155,017 for operating expenses for the authority. The Department of Housing and Community Development advises that the authority has not issued any bonds, and thus there is no debt service to pay.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 19, 2001
ncs/cer Revised – Enrolled Bill – May 1, 2001

Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510