

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Joint Resolution 14 (Delegate Kopp, *et al.*)

Appropriations

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Lighting Efficiency and Light Pollution in Maryland

This joint resolution establishes a 23-member task force to study the cost, extent, causes, and consequences of current public lighting standards and policies, light pollution, and the benefits of alternative policies in Maryland. The task force must: (1) estimate the potential fiscal and energy costs and savings associated with the adoption of lighting practices that minimize inefficient lighting, light pollution, and energy waste; (2) study and document the benefits of lighting to the public and the consequences of light pollution in Maryland; (3) survey and document the technology and standards currently available to minimize light pollution; and (4) prepare recommendations for public and private action to enhance lighting efficiency and minimize light pollution in Maryland. The Department of General Services (DGS) must coordinate with other State agencies, including the University of Maryland (USM), to provide professional and administrative support to the task force. A task force member may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations. The task force must issue a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by October 15, 2001. The task force must issue a final report by February 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and administrative support costs for DGS and other State agencies, including USM, are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Potential increase in expenditures to contract out for studies and surveys.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

State Expenditures: The joint resolution provides that DGS must coordinate with other State agencies, including USM, to provide professional and administrative support to the task force. DGS advises that costs could increase by \$148,000 in fiscal 2002 to hire a consultant to provide support to the task force. Legislative Services advises, however, that because the joint resolution provides for coordination among State agencies, including USM, the need to hire a consultant is unclear at this time. Should the existing budgeted resources of DGS and other State agencies, including USM, prove inadequate to perform the required duties, general fund expenditures could increase in fiscal 2002 only. Any such increase is speculative and cannot be estimated at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Energy Administration, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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