

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 22

(Cecil County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Cecil County - County Expenses - Records and Statements of Accounts

This bill repeals the requirement that the Cecil County Board of County Commissioners publish all records of county expenses in its meeting minutes. Instead, the bill requires records of county expenses to be on file in the Treasurer's Office. The bill also increases to \$500 the minimum expense payment amount that must be included on a monthly statement that is published in a newspaper in Cecil County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Cecil County expenditures would decrease by approximately \$3,650 annually to prepare and publish a monthly statement of expenses payments greater than \$500. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Board of County Commissioners must publish all records of county expenses in its meeting minutes which must be made available for public inspection. The board is also required to compile a detailed statement of accounts each month for expense payments greater than \$200 that were made during the month and publish the statement in a newspaper published in the county.

Local Fiscal Effect: Cecil County advises that annual expenditures for preparing and publishing monthly statements detailing county expenses greater than \$200 is approximately \$14,600. Cecil County further advises that it estimates a cost savings of approximately 25% annually if the minimum expense payment amount required to be included on the monthly statement is increased from \$200 to \$500. Accordingly, Cecil County expenditures would decrease by \$3,650 annually. Cecil County finances would not be significantly affected by altering the requirement that records of the county's expenses be available on file in the Treasurer's Office instead of being published in the board's meeting minutes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2004
n/ljm

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510