

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 858

(Senator Astle)

Finance

Economic Matters

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**Department of Business and Economic Development - Realignment and Closure  
of Military Installations**

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This bill requires the Secretary of Business and Economic Development to designate an entity within the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) to be the single contact for issues relating to realignment and closure of federal military installations in the State.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations; it could improve administrative efficiency and prevent duplication of State efforts.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** The bill reflects one of the recommendations of the Maryland Military Strategic Planning Council, created by Chapter 235 of 2003. The council was created to evaluate the impact of, and prepare for, the upcoming federal base realignment and closure process. The Secretary of Defense must provide Congress a list of military bases to be realigned or closed by May 16, 2005. A nine-member Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) must submit its recommendations to the President by

September 8, 2005; the final date for presidential approval of the commission's list is November 7, 2005 following any requested revisions.

Three facilities in the State were closed during the last round of base closures following the recommendations of BRAC; however, several bases in the State were expanded and Maryland experienced a net gain. In addition to the U.S. Naval Academy, eight major federal military bases and three military medical centers operate in Maryland.

Within DBED's Regional Development Division is an Office of Military Affairs that serves as an advocate for increasing activity at the State's nine military bases and administers grants to support investment for the bases. The division has three full-time staff and one contractual employee.

**State Effect:** DBED advises that the bill codifies current practice, as the Military Affairs Office already serves as the main point of contact for BRAC. Other State agencies, such as the Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Department of Transportation, would continue to provide technical assistance for realignment and closure activity.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2004  
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