

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 660 (Delegate Glassman)  
Environmental Matters

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**Environment - Gasoline Underground Storage Tanks - Groundwater Contamination**

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This bill establishes statutory requirements for owners of gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) if site groundwater samples collected by such owners in accordance with current law or regulations contain concentrations of gasoline constituents equal to or greater than specified “levels of concern.” Requirements include reporting the concentrations to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), developing a corrective action plan, providing notice to affected entities, and, if required by MDE, performing additional groundwater testing and upgrading defective equipment as required by regulation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies current regulations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** “Levels of concern” means benzene at or above 5 parts per billion (ppb), total benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene at or above 100 ppb, and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) at or above 20 ppb.

**Current Law/Background:** Concern regarding MTBE in Maryland increased in 2004 with the discovery of groundwater contamination in Harford County; MTBE contamination has also been found in other Maryland counties. Emergency regulations addressing MTBE contamination took effect January 26, 2005. Under the emergency regulations, UST owners are required to increase monitoring, implement additional safeguard requirements, install groundwater monitoring wells, and test groundwater. Depending on the analytical results of the groundwater monitoring, owners are required to report to MDE within 24 hours specified levels of concern and to develop a corrective action plan. Under regulations already in place, for each confirmed release that requires a corrective action plan, MDE, in cooperation with the responsible parties, must provide notice to the affected public. UST owners may be required to perform groundwater testing of surrounding areas and to upgrade defective equipment.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2005  
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