

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 393

(Delegates Otto and McDermott)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Somerset County - Smith Island Solid Waste District - Remove Limitation on Fee

This emergency bill repeals the maximum annual fee that may be charged by Somerset County for properties in the Smith Island solid waste district, which is currently \$50 for improved, residential property and \$100 for other improved property.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2012 due to the repeal of the maximum fee that may be charged in the Smith Island solid waste district.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: The Somerset County Commissioners are authorized to designate, by ordinance, a solid waste district for the sole purpose of imposing an annual fee on improved property on Smith Island to offset the cost of removing solid waste, including ash and other residue, from the county's incinerator. A fee imposed by ordinance under this authorization must be compatible to the costs incurred by other property owners in Somerset County for the disposal of solid waste. The fee may be included as a separate item on the county tax bill, or mailed as a separate bill to property owners. The fee constitutes a lien on the property and may be collected in the same manner as property taxes are collected.

Local Revenues: Somerset County advises that it assumes that the county commissioners will increase the fee on residential property in the Smith Island solid waste district to \$52, in order to reach parity with the solid waste fee for other residential properties throughout the county. Under this assumption, local revenues increase by \$2,355 annually, as a result of the repeal of the maximum fee of \$50.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 569 (Senator Mathias) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2011
ncs/lgc

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