

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 457 (Calvert County Senators)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Calvert County - Local Forest Conservation Fund - Administrative Costs**

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This bill allows for money deposited in Calvert County's local forest conservation fund to be used for the administrative costs, including the payment of staff, directly related to reforestation and afforestation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill only modifies the allowable uses for an existing, dedicated fund and should not materially affect Calvert County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), a local authority with an approved forest conservation program may establish a forest conservation fund to hold payments by persons that have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local authority that requirements under the program for reforestation and afforestation on-site and off-site cannot be reasonably accomplished. Money deposited in a local forest conservation fund may only be spent on reforestation and afforestation, including the costs directly related to site identification, acquisition, prepurchase, and preparation; maintenance of existing forests; and achieving urban canopy goals, and may not revert to any other local general fund.

**Background:** The Department of Natural Resources' Forest Service administers FCA, but it is implemented on the local level. FCA and local forest conservation programs developed under it apply to any public or private subdivision plan or application for a grading or sediment control permit by any person, including a unit of State or local government, on areas 40,000 square feet or greater, subject to certain exemptions. A proposed construction activity goes through a process of evaluation of existing vegetation on a site and development of a forest conservation plan for the site defining how forest area will be retained and/or afforestation or reforestation will be undertaken. If afforestation or reforestation requirements cannot be reasonably accomplished on-site or off-site, payment may be made into the applicable forest conservation fund to be spent by the local authority on reforestation and afforestation.

Calvert County's local forest conservation program is implemented through forest conservation requirements under the county's zoning ordinance.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2013  
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