

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 62

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Chesapeake Bay Trust - Powers and Duties - Member Terms

This bill alters the term limit for members of the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Board of Trustees that are not ex officio members from two terms to two *consecutive* terms. The bill also repeals a prohibition on the trust soliciting or accepting any gift, bequest, or lease of real or personal property.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a private, nonprofit grant-making organization established by the General Assembly in 1985 to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay and other aquatic and land resources of the State. The trust awards grants to community-led environmental education and habitat restoration projects through a portfolio of programs and manages the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program as a special initiative. The trust is governed by a board of 19 trustees. Board members that are not ex officio members serve four-year terms and are limited to two terms.

The trust's funding comes from (1) sales of *Treasure the Chesapeake* commemorative license plates; (2) donations from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund income tax check-off program; (3) federal and State government contributions; and (4) private and corporate contributions.

Among its powers and duties, the trust is authorized to "solicit and accept any gift, grant, legacy, or endowment of money from the federal government, the State government, local government, or any private source in furtherance of the Trust." However, elsewhere in the law governing the trust, it is stated that "[e]xcept as otherwise provided ... the Trust may not solicit or accept any gift, bequest, or lease of real or personal property." The bill repeals that prohibition, removing uncertainty regarding the extent to which the trust may solicit and accept any gift, bequest, or lease of real or personal property.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 121 (Delegate S. Robinson) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 14, 2014
mlm/lgc

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