

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 821 (Delegates Simonaire and Kipke)  
Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Environment - Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - Composition - Second Duties**

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This bill expands the membership of the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee to include one member of the Restore Rock Creek Organization and one member of the South Baltimore Business Alliance (SBBA). The bill also nominally alters the required duties of the committee by replacing references to “tributary spoil” and “spoil” with the term “dredged material.”

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee was established by Chapter 83 of 2001 to, among other things, monitor the redeposit of Anne Arundel County tributary spoil and other spoil in the Cox Creek Area. The Governor is required to appoint the committee members.

“Tributary spoil” and “spoil” are not terms that are defined by statute or, except in the context of coal mining, State environmental regulations. However, “dredged material” is defined within the subtitle of the Environment Article that established the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee.

According to the committee's website, it oversees the implementation of the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility in Anne Arundel County and provides advice to the Maryland Port Administration regarding the operation of the facility and the potential impacts it may have on the nearby communities as well as the natural resources in the area. After a nearly five-year period of inactivity, the committee has once again begun meeting in 2015 and has scheduled seven meetings this year.

Chapter 75 of 2014 updated a reference to a Maryland legislative district for purposes of ensuring that the membership of the committee continues to include a representative from areas surrounding the Port of Baltimore.

According to its website, the Restore Rock Creek Organization is a watershed organization founded in 2009 that builds on the previous efforts of the Rock Creek Citizens Environmental Committee. The organization's focus is improving the water quality of Rock Creek through an understanding of what impacts the waters and developing thoughtful approaches to minimizing the elements that are harmful to the creek.

SBBA is a coalition of businesses founded in 2004 and located in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay area of Baltimore City and Northern Anne Arundel County. SBBA's mission is to protect members' right to exist and operate and advocate industrial growth and expansion while promoting cooperative co-existence of the industrial and residential communities. According to its website, membership includes heavy industry, manufacturing, recycling, transportation, and related service providers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Restore Rock Creek Organization, South Baltimore Business Alliance, Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2015  
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