

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1002

(Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - County Oyster Committees

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), during the 2015 interim, to form a workgroup with representatives of the county oyster committees to examine issues related to the composition and duties of county oyster committees. Findings and recommendations must be reported to the Governor, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Environment and Transportation Committee by December 1, 2015.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirement can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR must have licensed oystermen in each tidewater county of the State select committees of oystermen to confer with DNR concerning oyster propagation conducted by the department in each county.

Background: DNR indicates that county oyster committees currently serve as advisory bodies that advise the department on oyster-related issues. Oyster surcharge and tax revenue collected from licensed oyster harvesters and used for oyster repletion activities is

used by DNR based on recommendations of the county oyster committees, but subject to DNR's approval.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2015
md/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 2015

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