

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 187 (Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Cecil County and Queen Anne's County - Intergovernmental Cooperation and
Acceptance of Funds

This bill authorizes Cecil and Queen Anne's counties to contract with another governmental entity for the joint or cooperative performance of governmental functions. Cecil and Queen Anne's counties are also authorized to accept any gift or grant from the federal or State government or any unit of federal or State government and use the gift or grant for any lawful purpose for which it is received.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local revenues in Cecil and Queen Anne's counties may increase to the extent the jurisdictions receive additional grants or gifts that they are not otherwise authorized to receive under current law. County expenditures may decrease to the extent that the jurisdictions realize economics of scale as a result of providing certain public services in conjunction with one or more governmental entities.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Most counties in Maryland are authorized to contract with another governmental entity for the joint or cooperative performance of governmental functions. This authorization is not provided in Baltimore City and six counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Howard, Prince George's, and Queen Anne's).

Eligible counties are authorized to accept any gift or grant from the federal or State government or any unit of federal or State government and use the gift or grant for any lawful purpose for which it is received.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local revenues in Cecil and Queen Anne's counties may increase to the extent the jurisdictions receive additional grants or gifts that they are not otherwise authorized to receive under current law. In addition, county expenditures may decrease to the extent that the jurisdictions realize economics of scale as a result of providing certain public services in conjunction with one or more governmental entities.

The Maryland Association of Counties advises that the bill will allow Cecil and Queen Anne's counties to contract with another governmental entity for the joint or cooperative performance of governmental functions. An example includes the regionalization of 9-1-1 services which is of interest to several counties as a means to improve current service with technology upgrades in a way that is more cost effective for all counties involved and the citizens they serve.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 21 (Senators Hershey and Norman) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne's County, Maryland Association of Counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2015
ncs/hlb

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