

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 233 (Delegate Carey)
Environment and Transportation

Finance

Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding
Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI). Under the bill, members must be representatives of community associations that are either wholly or partially located in the certified noise zone that was adopted under § 5-806 of the Transportation Article and effective March 23, 1998, instead of representatives of community associations located in the *most recent* certified noise zone.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Environmental Noise Act of 1974 required the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) to adopt an Airport Noise Zone (ANZ) and Noise Abatement Plan that minimizes the impact of aircraft noise on people living near BWI. Noise zones are established by measuring the day-night average sound levels of the areas around the airport over a 24-hour period. MAA uses this information to establish three contours surrounding the airport where the sound levels are greater than a certain

threshold; the contours include a recent base year, a 5-year forecast, and a 10-year forecast. These three areas make up the ANZ.

MAA is required to update the ANZ every five years to account for changes in annual aircraft operations, types, and flight paths that may result in changes to aircraft noise levels. Additionally, federal law requires U.S. airports to develop a noise compatibility program to secure federal funding for noise mitigation programs and to gain federal approval to implement certain noise abatement procedures.

Chapter 589 of 2001 established the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport to evaluate livability issues that affect communities in the (then) most recent certified noise zone or within two miles of the noise zone, develop projects to address transportation issues that affect livability, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for project funding. MAA advises that the committee reviews community enhancement grant applications each year for projects related to transportation in and around the ANZ and then makes its recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation. Under current law, committee members must be representatives of community associations that are either wholly or partially located in the *most recent* certified noise zone.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 72 (Senator DeGrange) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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