

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 867 (Washington County Delegation)  
Environment and Transportation

Budget and Taxation

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Washington County - Contributions to Nonprofit Organizations - Process

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This bill alters the process for funding nonprofit organizations in Washington County by (1) altering the deadline for submission of applications by nonprofit organizations for contributions; (2) requiring the county commissioners to hold a public hearing on the applications; (3) authorizing the county commissioners to remove organizations that cease operations or are no longer in good standing with the State from the list of nonprofit organizations eligible to receive county funding; and (4) authorizing the county commissioners, on request by the organization, to revise or amend the name of an organization.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill does not alter the amount of funding provided to nonprofit organizations in Washington County. Administrative changes can be handled with existing county budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Washington County Commissioners may contribute annually to the care, operation, maintenance, or capital expense of nonprofit organizations in Washington County, if the amount is included in the regular annual budget of Washington County for that fiscal year. The county commissioners must maintain a list of nonprofit organizations that are eligible to receive funds. The county commissioners may

include on the list of nonprofit organizations any organization approved by Public Local Law or by the county commissioners on or before September 30, 1998, without requiring an application or hearing before inclusion on the list. The county commissioners may add to the list upon application by an organization. An application by a nonprofit organization must be made at least 90 days before the county's fiscal year begins and after a public hearing on the request for funds has been held. The county commissioners must make the list available for public inspection and may publish it in the manner the county commissioners consider appropriate. The county commissioners may not reduce in the county budget the total amount of appropriations to nonprofit organizations below the total amount of appropriations made to nonprofit organizations in the budget for fiscal 1996.

**Background:** The Washington County Community Organization Fund was established to provide financial support to charitable organizations within Washington County that provide services which improve the community and quality of life for Washington County residents. During the annual budget process, the Washington County Commissioners determine the funding amount to be allocated to the Community Organization Fund. The Washington County fiscal 2016 budget indicates that current service priority areas for the fund include families and children, domestic violence, arts and culture, seniors, and recreation. The fiscal 2016 budget includes approximately \$1.7 million for the Community Organization Fund.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 517 (Washington County Senators) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2016  
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