

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 973

(Senator Miller, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

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Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Membership and Funding

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This bill increases the amount of money that Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties must each appropriate to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to \$135,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2020. Subject to the approval of the county commissioners, the amount is increased to \$150,000 in fiscal 2021 and to \$165,000 in fiscal 2022 and later. Without such approval, the amount remains at \$135,000 annually. The bill also modifies the membership of the council. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties increase by \$40,800 per county in FY 2020, by \$55,800 per county in FY 2021, and by \$70,800 per county in fiscal 2022 and each year thereafter. Revenues are not affected. **This bill increases a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Under current law, Calvert County must appropriate \$7,000 to the council each year, while Charles and St. Mary's counties must each appropriate \$9,000. In practice, each county is providing \$94,200 in fiscal 2019 and anticipates providing that amount in subsequent years.

The council receives a combination of federal, State, and local funding (State funding is not affected by the bill). The council advises that its fiscal 2019 budget is \$5.7 million, comprising \$2.5 million in federal funding, \$2.9 million in State funding, and the remaining amount from local sources.

*Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Generally*

The council is a cooperative planning and development unit for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties. The purposes of the council are to (1) foster the physical, economic, and social development of the region and (2) use effectively the assistance provided to the region by the State. The council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the region as a Southern Maryland planning and development unit. Activities of the council include research, information management, and the preparation of a regional plan. All of the activities of the council are designed to assist federal, State, and county governments in better performing their respective duties.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties increase by \$40,800 per county in fiscal 2020, by \$55,800 per county in fiscal 2021, and by \$70,800 per county in fiscal 2022 and subsequent years. Combined, local expenditures (funding for the council) increase by \$122,400 in fiscal 2020, \$167,400 in fiscal 2021, and \$212,400 in fiscal 2022 and beyond. This estimate assumes the following: (1) each county would have otherwise continued to fund the council at \$94,200 annually; and (2) the county commissioners agree to increase funding beyond \$135,000 in fiscal 2021 and each year thereafter, as specified for subsequent increases under the bill.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Commerce; Department of Budget and Management; Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties; Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2019  
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