

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 716

(Delegate Lehman, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Patuxent River Commission - Membership

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This emergency bill alters the membership of the Patuxent River Commission. Specifically, the bill (1) adds the Patuxent Riverkeeper as a permanent, full voting member of the commission, beginning June 1, 2022; (2) makes the President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (or a designee) an *ex officio* member of the commission; (3) reduces, from two to one, the number of appointed members representing academic interests; and (4) adds, as an appointed member, one individual representing an organization or unit of local government engaged in watershed management and restoration.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Patuxent River Commission within the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is made up of 34 voting members appointed by the Governor and representing relevant jurisdictions, organizations/agencies, and interests. The commission (1) reviews the operation of units of State and local government that have responsibility for implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan; (2) provides a clearinghouse for information on the Patuxent River and its watershed; (3) reviews and comments on plans and reports related to the Patuxent River and its watershed; and (4) serves as the Tributary

Strategy Team for the Patuxent Watershed, coordinating the Patuxent tributary strategy with the Patuxent River Policy Plan. The Patuxent River Policy Plan is used as a policy guide by local jurisdictions and units of State government in carrying out their action and regulatory programs in the Patuxent River Watershed. The commission has a specified role assisting MDP in updating the plan.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 367 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2022  
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