

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 343

(Delegate Munoz)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment - Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - Alterations

This bill modifies the duties and membership of the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Committee Duties

The Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee was established by Chapter 83 of 2001 to (1) monitor the redeposit of Anne Arundel County dredged material and other dredged material in the Cox Creek Area and (2) hear and dispose of complaints lodged by individuals affected by the redeposit of Anne Arundel County dredged material and other dredged material in the Cox Creek area. The bill modifies the statutory duties of the committee to instead require it to:

- monitor the management of dredged material at the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility;

- advise the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) of complaints lodged by individuals affected by the redeposit of Anne Arundel County dredged material and other dredged material in the Cox Creek area;
- provide input and feedback to MPA regarding the management of dredged material at the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility; and
- make recommendations to MPA on the potential impact that activities at the containment facility may have on nearby communities and natural resources.

Under current law, the committee must also appoint a member from the committee to serve as a liaison to the Innovative Use Advisory Committee. The bill modifies this requirement to reflect the current name of the committee (the Innovative Reuse Committee).

Committee Membership

Under current law, the Governor must appoint the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee members, and the committee consists of 12 members that represent various entities and interests. The bill makes the following changes to the composition of the committee:

- instead of 2 members from the North County Land Trust, the committee must include 1 member of the land trust that holds the conservation easement of the Cox Creek Forest Conservation Easement Area;
- instead of 1 member of the Anne Arundel County Watermen’s Association, the committee must include 1 individual who represents recreational birding in Anne Arundel County;
- the committee no longer includes 1 member of the Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishermen’s Association;
- instead of 1 member of the South Baltimore Business Alliance, the committee must include 1 member of the Baltimore Industrial Group; and
- the committee must include 2 individuals who represent a waterfront community in the northern part of Anne Arundel County.

Maryland Port Administration and the Dredged Material Management Program

Pursuant to current law, MPA, through its efforts to increase waterborne commerce, promotes the economic well-being of the State and manages the State-owned facilities at the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore. MPA is governed by its Executive Director and the Maryland Port Commission. MPA is expressly authorized to acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, improve, maintain, lease as lessor or as lessee, repair, and operate either directly or through State-created private operating companies port facilities within

its territorial jurisdiction, including the dredging of ship channels and turning basins and the filling and grading of land.

Through its [Dredged Material Management Program](#), MPA maintains the shipping channel in the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore Harbor, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. MPA deposits the dredged material across its [five active dredged material containment facilities](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 20 (Senator Simonaire) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

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Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510