

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 530

(Cecil County Senators)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

Cecil County – Annual Financial Report – Filing Date

This bill alters the filing date by which Cecil County must submit its annual financial report to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) and its annual audit to the State Legislative Auditor from October 31 to December 31.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Altering Cecil County’s annual financial and audit report deadline will not affect county finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Counties, municipalities, and special taxing districts must file a financial report covering the full period of the previous fiscal year by October 31 to DLS. Local jurisdictions with a population greater than 400,000, however, may take until December 31 to file their financial report. Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties are the only jurisdictions whose population is greater than 400,000. In recent years, the General Assembly has extended the reporting deadlines in multiple counties. The annual financial report for Howard County is due by November 30; whereas, the annual financial reports for 11 counties (Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico) are due by December 31.

The annual financial report due to DLS is commonly known as the Uniform Financial Report (UFR). It has been common practice for DLS to grant an extension of the UFR upon receipt of a reasonable request from a local jurisdiction. Local jurisdictions must also submit an annual audit report covering the full period of the previous fiscal year to the State Legislative Auditor. Chapter 493 of 2008 tied the due date for the annual audit report to the due date for the annual financial report.

If a local jurisdiction does not submit its annual UFR on time, the Comptroller, on notice from the Executive Director of DLS may order the discontinuance of all money, grants or State aid the local jurisdiction is entitled to receive under State law, including (1) the income tax; (2) the tax on racing; (3) the recordation tax; (4) the admissions and amusement tax; and (5) the license tax.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Cecil County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2024
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