

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 741
Appropriations

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Finance

Northwest Baltimore County Sports Tourism Facility - Feasibility Study

This bill requires the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and operating a sports tourism facility at Reisterstown Regional Park in northwest Baltimore County, subject to specified requirements. In conducting the study, MSA must consult with specified State and local entities. By December 31, 2025, MSA must submit a final report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Economic Matters Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates January 31, 2026.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for MSA increase by \$300,000 in FY 2025 and by \$100,000 in FY 2026 to conduct the feasibility study, as discussed below. The Department of Commerce and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) can consult with MSA as needed with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Table with 6 columns: (in dollars), FY 2025, FY 2026, FY 2027, FY 2028, FY 2029. Rows include Revenues, GF Expenditure, and Net Effect.

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Baltimore County can consult with MSA as needed with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** In conducting the study, MSA must:

- identify available and potential federal, State, and local funding sources for the project;
- identify the infrastructure needs, capital costs, and operating costs associated with (1) construction of the land located at a specified address on Mitchell Drive, in Reisterstown; (2) enhancement and development of the existing indoor ice hockey rink, indoor soccer fields, and outdoor playing fields; (3) planning and construction of potential parks, open spaces, facilities, greenways, trails, and other amenities; and (4) recreational programs at the new and enhanced facilities;
- examine the economic impact on the local and regional economy, as specified, including potential employment opportunities, enhanced tax revenues, and the effect on local property values; and
- consult with Commerce, MTA, the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development, the Baltimore County Revenue Authority, and the Maryland Sports Commission (“Maryland Sports” in statute, an office in MSA).

**Current Law:** MSA was established in 1986 as an independent unit in the Executive Branch to be responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities for use by professional baseball and/or football teams. In 1992, legislation was enacted, which assigned to the authority the responsibility for expansion of the Baltimore City Convention Center. MSA’s responsibility was further extended in 1995 when legislation was enacted to have MSA participate in and manage construction of the Ocean City Convention Center. Legislation in 1996 authorized MSA to participate with Montgomery County in the construction of a conference center, and in 2000, MSA was authorized to participate in construction of the Hippodrome Performing Arts Center in Baltimore. Since then, MSA has been authorized to construct a variety of other projects and facilities. MSA may, in fact, manage any type of construction project for local governments and State agencies upon request and approval by the General Assembly.

“Sports tourism facility” is not defined in State law. Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the Economic Development Article, which establishes MSA and contains related provisions, defines a “sports facility” and a “sports entertainment facility” for purposes of various MSA projects. The terms are mutually exclusive.

**State Expenditures:** This estimate assumes general funds are provided for MSA to conduct the feasibility study. MSA estimates total costs of \$400,000 to do so, which are in addition to an operational effect for MSA staff. Of that amount, \$340,000 is for the study’s infrastructure needs/site cost components and \$60,000 is for the study’s economic

components. MSA must submit a report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations by December 31, 2025; total costs are assumed to be allocated between fiscal 2025 and 2026. Accordingly, general fund expenditures for MSA increase by \$300,000 in fiscal 2025 and by \$100,000 in fiscal 2026.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** SB 804 (Senator Brooks) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Stadium Authority; Department of Commerce; Maryland Department of Transportation; Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2024  
rh/ljm Third Reader - March 19, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 19, 2024

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Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

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