

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 918

(The Speaker)(By Request - State Treasurer)

Environment and Transportation

Budget and Taxation

State Treasurer and Comptroller - Membership Responsibilities

This bill removes the State Treasurer from membership in (1) the Board of Trustees for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF); (2) the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC); and (3) the Coast Smart Council in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill adds the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee, to membership in MCCC and the Coast Smart Council in DNR. The bill also makes corresponding changes related to the authority and duties associated with being a member of these boards, commissions, and/or councils. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances; however, the State Treasurer's Office may experience administrative efficiencies to the extent the bill reduces the number of meetings the office is required to attend each year. The Comptroller's Office can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

The General Assembly created MALPF to preserve productive agricultural land and woodland, limit the extent of urban development, and protect agricultural land and

woodland as open space. The foundation, with the assistance and cooperation of landowners and local governments, purchases development rights easements as a means of protecting agricultural land and woodland production activities.

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

MCCC, originally created by executive order, was codified in statute pursuant to Chapter 429 of 2015 to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. The commission is required to submit annual updates to the Governor and the General Assembly on the State's efforts to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change, including any future plans and recommendations for legislation. The Maryland Department of the Environment and DNR jointly staff the commission.

Coast Smart Council

In response to ongoing concern about the vulnerability of the State's infrastructure investments to sea level rise and coastal flooding, in December 2012, Governor Martin J. O'Malley issued the Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction executive order. Chapter 415 of 2014, generally codified the executive order and established a Coast Smart Council in DNR and required the council to develop specified "Coast Smart" siting and design criteria to address sea level rise and coastal flood impacts on capital projects.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 777 (The President)(By Request - State Treasurer) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office; Maryland Environmental Service; Maryland State Treasurer's Office; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2024
km/hlb Third Reader - March 16, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 16, 2024

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