

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 552 (Senator Dorman)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Maryland-Washington Regional District - Boundaries - Zoning Authority

This bill changes the boundaries of the Maryland-Washington Regional District by excluding the City of Laurel, as its boundaries are defined as of July 1, 1996. The bill also provides that the Regional Council and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) have exclusive planning, zoning, and subdivision control over land that is included in the Prince George's County portion of the Regional District.

The bill is effective July 1, 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County and M-NCPPC finances would not be directly affected. City of Laurel finances could be minimally affected as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Since the Regional Council and M-NCPPC currently have exclusive planning and zoning control over all land in the Prince George's County portion of the Regional District, except in the City of Laurel, county and M-NCPPC finances would not be directly affected. Under current law, the county's portion of the Regional District consists of the entire county, except for the City of Laurel as its boundaries are defined as of July 1, 1994. However, any annexations by the city after this date are subject to the planning and zoning authority of M-NCPPC. According to M-NCPPC, the city has not annexed any properties since July 1, 1994. Under the bill, the county's portion of the Regional District consists of the entire county, except for the City of Laurel as its boundaries are defined as of July 1, 1996. If the city annexes property after this date, M-NCPPC would retain planning and

zoning control over the annexed area. At this time, the number of annexations cannot be determined. It is assumed that the county and M-NCPPC could handle the additional planning and zoning authority with existing resources.

If the City of Laurel annexes property after July 1, 1996, M-NCPPC would have control over planning and zoning in those areas. To the extent that the planning and zoning actions of M-NCPPC differ from the city's actions in the annexed areas, city finances could be affected. The impact on city revenues and expenditures cannot be determined at this time, but any impact is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, City of Laurel, Department of Fiscal Services

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Analysis by: Thomas Himler
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710