

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 765 (Senator Miller)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Environmental Trust - Establishment as an Independent Agency

This bill establishes the Maryland Environmental Trust as a separate unit in the Executive Branch of State government by transferring it out of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The bill is effective July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: *DNR has refused to respond to requests for information on this legislation.* The bill would result in a reallocation of funds from DNR to the newly separate Maryland Environmental Trust. The fiscal 1997 allowance for the Maryland Environmental Trust is \$451,800 (\$345,200 in general funds, \$33,800 in special funds, and \$72,800 in reimbursable funds.) The bill provides that all general, special, and federal funds in the State budget for fiscal 1997 must be transferred on the effective date of the bill. It is presumed that all moneys remaining from the original \$451,800 at the end of the fiscal year would be transferred; however, the bill does not explicitly mention reimbursable funds. In fiscal 1998, the DNR budget would decrease by approximately \$451,800. The Maryland Environmental Trust is currently located in a State facility in Crownsville and not at the Tawes Office Building, therefore no moving expenditures should be incurred, and all operating costs are expected to remain constant. This reallocation of resources would not result in any additional revenues or expenditures.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 1996

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