

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 947 (Delegate Perry, et al.)
Environmental Matters

Rubble Landfills - Liners - Local Authority

This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from issuing a permit for a rubble landfill unless (1) a liner and leachate collection system is required as a condition of the permit; or (2) the local jurisdiction in which the landfill is located has waived its authority to require a liner and leachate collection system. A local jurisdiction may require any new rubble landfill or expansion of an existing landfill to install a single liner of specified dimensions and leachate collection system regardless of any regulation adopted by MDE.

The local jurisdiction must notify MDE to include a liner and leachate collection system requirement within 60 days after the local jurisdiction receives the complete Phase 2 report for the permit application; failure to do so means that the local government has waived its authority to require a liner and leachate collection system.

This bill is effective July 1, 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in expenditures and revenues.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: To the extent that local governments require that rubble landfills have liners and leachate collection systems, local expenditures could increase. If local governments operate such landfills they will have to pay for these systems; if private companies operate the landfills they will likely pass on the costs of these requirements to the local government.

Local revenues could increase to the extent that local jurisdictions pass on these increased costs to rate holders. For instance, if the landfill is owned by the local jurisdiction, increased costs could be offset by an increase in tipping fees.

According to Baltimore County, the cost to have a liner installed is \$80,000 to \$100,000 per acre for a synthetic liner, and up to \$150,000 per acre for a clay liner. It is assumed for the purposes of this estimate that the requirement for a liner at least 30 millimeters thick is actually 30 MILS thick.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore County, Garrett County, Department of Fiscal Services

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