

Department of Fiscal Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 910 (Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Delegations)
 Commerce and Government Matters Referred to Select Bi-County

**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Prince George’s
 County - Metropolitan District**
MC/PG 6-97

This amended bill expands the boundaries of the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District in Prince George’s County to include certain areas outside the City of Laurel. The bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate increase in Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) revenues beginning in FY 1998. Minimal indeterminate effect on M-NCPPC expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Minimal impact on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Prince George’s County levies four taxes for M-NCPPC: the administration tax imposed in the Regional District; the park tax imposed in the Metropolitan District; and the recreation tax and the advance land acquisition tax, imposed countywide. The fiscal 1997 rates per \$100 assessed value are as follows:

Administration Tax	Regional District	\$0.1103
Park Tax	Metropolitan District	\$0.3534
Recreation Tax	Countywide	\$0.1401
Advance Land Acquisition Tax	Countywide	\$0.0062
Total		\$0.61

The administration tax funds the operating or administrative expenses and planning functions of the commission. The park tax funds the acquisition and development of parks. The recreation tax funds the operating and maintenance costs of M-NCPPC recreational programs. The advance land acquisition tax pays the principal and interest on bonds issued for the acquisition of lands for public use, such as school sites, arterial limited access highways, streets and roads, and other public uses.

Under current law, the Metropolitan District consists of the entire county, except the areas of the City of Greenbelt, the City of District Heights, the City of Laurel, most of Election District #10 (West of Laurel), Election District #8 (the Aquasco area), and Election District #4 (the Nottingham area). This legislation expands the boundaries of the Metropolitan District to incorporate certain areas surrounding the City of Laurel. The City of Laurel would remain outside of the Metropolitan District. This could generate an indeterminate increase in M-NCPPC revenues in fiscal 1998. The actual revenue increase would depend upon the amount of assessable base surrounding the City of Laurel that would be added to the Metropolitan District. This information is not readily available at this time. M-NCPPC expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount depending on whether existing staff can provide planning and zoning and park services to the affected areas.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses located in the affected areas outside Laurel would encounter higher business costs associated with the additional M-NCPPC tax (\$0.3534 per \$100 of assessed value). Accordingly, a small business operating in a building assessed at \$250,000 would be charged an additional \$353.40 in local property taxes. The number of small businesses within the affected areas outside Laurel is not known, however, it is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

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