

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 21 (Delegate Arnick, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

**Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility -
Modification Requires Approval by the General Assembly**

This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from approving the alteration of the capacity of the Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility unless the change is authorized through legislation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate effect on State expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential indeterminate effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The bill would not affect the current plan to raise the dikes on Hart-Miller Island because the bill specifically exempts previously licensed activities; therefore, there would be no immediate fiscal impact. However, the need for General Assembly approval to increase capacity at this site could affect expenditures in the long-term. The current plan to raise the dikes at Hart-Miller Island is due to the lack of alternative sites for dredge disposal. If any of the alternative sites currently being worked on are not available in the time frames expected, raising the dikes again at Hart-Miller Island would need approval from the General Assembly. The Maryland Department of Transportation might therefore have to use potentially more costly dredge disposal sites, rush completion of alternative sites, or utilize open-water placement. Alternatively, dredging plans might have to be scaled back.

Small Business Effect: In the event that dredging plans have to be scaled back, small businesses that rely on port traffic or that assist in dredging operations could potentially be

affected. Conversely, if open-water placement were used, this could have an indeterminable negative impact on the seafood industry.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fiscal Services

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Analysis by: Kim E. Wells-McDonnell
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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