

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 741 (Washington County Delegation)  
Commerce and Government Matters                      Ref. to Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Washington County - County Commissioners**

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This enrolled bill increases, from \$15,000 to \$25,000, the value of a contract which the Washington County Commissioners may enter into without advertising for bids at least one week before the bid by publication in a newspaper or through electronic media.

The bill also repeals the limitation on the frequency of publication of a new edition or supplement to the Washington County Code of Public Local Laws. Instead, the county commissioners may publish these laws as often as they deem necessary. This portion of the bill takes effect June 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Washington County expenditures for advertising bids would decrease about \$500 per year. Any costs or savings associated with publishing the local laws would be minimal. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. This bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** Over the past three years Washington County spent \$1,570 on advertising for 18 bids where the award was between \$15,000 and \$25,000. With one exception, the successful bidders were notified of the bid by a direct mail notice, rather than as a result of advertising. Overall, very few if any requests for bid documents were received as a result of advertising. Thus, the savings associated with the costs of advertising would likely be realized without a decrease in competition. Washington County would save about

\$523 per year in advertising. In addition, there could be administrative savings associated with a decrease in time delay in the procurement process.

Any costs or savings associated with publishing the local laws would be minimal and would depend upon the frequency of publications.

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**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 1997  
brd Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 30, 1997

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