

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 572 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Environment - Natural Wood Waste Recycling Facilities - Permits

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), when deciding whether to issue or renew a natural wood waste recycling facility permit, to consider whether the applicant has caused actual harm to public health or the environment.

MDE must consider if the applicant caused harm by:

- violating environmental laws or regulations;
- not correcting known violations;
- not exercising reasonable care; and
- engaging in repeated violations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any additional workload can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: There are approximately 15 natural wood waste recycling facilities in Maryland, employing approximately 45 employees. All 15 of these facilities would be classified as small businesses. While it is possible that the bill's provisions could cause a facility's permit renewal to be denied, it cannot be estimated at this time how many of these facilities might be affected.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Office of Administrative

Hearings, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 1997

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