

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 704 (Prince George's County Delegation)  
Environmental Matters

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Prince George's County - Soil Conservation District - Fees  
PG 405-97

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This bill requires Prince George's County to approve a recommended fee system for the county's soil conservation district that would cover the actual cost of reviewing grading and sediment control plans or provide the necessary funds to cover the cost of review, including funds for adequate district staffing.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate effect on Prince George's County revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful effect. Small businesses may be affected depending upon the magnitude of the fee increase and whether Prince George's County reduces the stormwater ad valorem tax to mitigate the revenue increase.

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Fiscal Analysis

**Local Revenues:** The Prince George's County Soil Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State and is governed by a five-member board of supervisors who direct and oversee the local district. Under current law, the district's supervisors set fees to cover the cost of reviewing grading and sediment control plans. The recommended fees must be enacted by the county council before they take effect. Pursuant to this bill, the county must approve a recommended fee structure or provide the necessary funding to cover the total costs of the soil conservation district. The district's fiscal 1997 budget totals \$476,612. The district is expected to receive \$476,612 in revenues from the Stormwater Management

Enterprise Fund, of which \$180,000 are from fees and \$296,612 are from the county's stormwater ad valorem tax. No county general fund revenues are expected to be used to fund the district in 1997. If the fee system has to cover the district's total costs, current fees would have to increase by 165%.

	Actual FY 1995	Estimated FY 1996	Appropriated FY 1997
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$472,731	\$522,981	\$476,612
<b>Revenues:</b> Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund	\$94,139	\$522,981	\$476,612 (\$180,000 in fees and \$296,612 in ad valorem taxes)
<b>Revenues:</b> County General Fund	\$378,592	\$0	\$0

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Fiscal Services, Prince George's County

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 1997  
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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.  
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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