

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 894 (Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations)
Commerce and Government Matters Referred to Select Bi-County

**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission -
Organization and Services in Prince George's County**
MC/PG 31-97

This amended bill alters several provisions of law relating to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and Prince George's County. The bill provides that M-NCPPC property within the Prince George's County portion of the Metropolitan District may be transferred to the county Revenue Authority or Redevelopment Authority. In addition, revitalization and redevelopment functions of the county government and commission would be consolidated into a single organization.

The bill changes the number of votes required to override the Prince George's County Executive's veto from a majority, which is currently five members, to two-thirds of the Prince George's County Council (six members). The bill enables the commission to use advance land acquisition funds to acquire land needed for libraries, recreation centers, health services facilities, and elder care facilities. The bill also enables Prince George's County to provide for the historic preservation, outreach and marketing, and maintenance of historic properties activities of the commission. In addition, the commission is required to review the best practices of historic preservation and marketing in the United States and issue a report to the County Executive and County Council of Prince George's County by January 30, 1998.

The Office of Legislative Audits, upon the request of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, the Prince George's County Executive, or the Prince George's County Council, is required to audit the commission's expenditures or tax revenues relating to Prince George's County.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate impact on M-NCPPC and Prince George's County finances.

Small Business Effect: None. Small businesses would not be directly affected by this bill.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect:

Legislative Audits

The Office of Legislative Audits, upon the request of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, the Prince George's County Executive, or the Prince George's County Council, is required to audit the commission's expenditures or tax revenues relating to Prince George's County. The additional audits can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect:

Redevelopment and Revenue Authorities

The bill provides that M-NCPPC property within the Prince George's County portion of the Metropolitan District may be transferred to the county Revenue Authority or Redevelopment Authority. In addition, revitalization and redevelopment functions of the county government and commission would be consolidated into a single organization. Since the redevelopment and revenue authorities have not become operational, county expenditures may be partially offset by utilizing existing commission staff to administer the authorities. This would eliminate the possibility of establishing duplicative functions once the authorities become operational and could reduce potential future county expenditures while maintaining commission expenditures for redevelopment functions.

Use of Advance Land Acquisition Funds

The bill enables the commission to use advance land acquisition funds to acquire land needed for libraries, recreation centers, health services facilities, and elder care facilities. Under current law, these funds can only be used to acquire land for school sites and certain transportation projects. Generally, the commission utilizes bond proceeds for the acquisition of land. The advance land acquisition tax (0.62 cents in fiscal 1997) pays the principal and

interest on these bonds. In fiscal 1997 the advance land acquisition fund in Prince George's County had a budget of \$1 million. This provision may result in less land being acquired for schools or other originally intended purposes, unless additional funds are provided which would result in a higher advance land acquisition tax rate.

Historic Properties

The bill enables Prince George's County to enact ordinances concerning historic preservation, outreach and marketing, and maintenance of historic properties activities of the commission. In addition, the commission is required to review the best practices of historic preservation and marketing in the United States and issue a report to the County Executive and County Council of Prince George's County by January 30, 1998.

Education Facility Master Plan

The bill requires the Education Facility Master Plan to be updated annually. This plan may include interagency utilization of neighborhood schools, including joint use of school facilities and property of the commission, the library system, the health department, the police department, the social services department, and the family services department. Local expenditures would not be affected.

County Executive's Budgetary Authority

The bill changes the number of votes required to override the Prince George's County Executive's veto from a majority, which is currently five members, to two-thirds of the Prince George's County Council (six members). As a result, the County Executive would have more control over the commission's budget. This change would also make the number of votes required to override the County Executive's veto the same for Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Prince George's County finances would not be directly affected.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 1997
lc Revised - House Third Reader - April 3, 1997

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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