

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 624 (Senator Della)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

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**Incinerators - Special Medical Waste - Inspection**

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This enrolled bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct at least quarterly inspections of any incinerator that accepts more than 50 tons per day of special medical waste to ensure compliance with the air quality permit. MDE must require the permit holder to sample specified emissions at least once per year and provide the test report to the department. An incinerator must not accept more than 150 tons per day of special medical waste. The permit holder must pay the department for the cost of the inspections and any other regulatory activity.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in State revenues; expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** There is currently only one incinerator accepting more than 50 tons per day of special medical waste. MDE advises that it inspects that facility seven or eight times a year for air permit requirements.

MDE imposes a fee on businesses of approximately \$31.78 per ton for an air operating permit; this charge pays for permit administration as well as inspection activities. It is not clear if the facility would have to pay a fee exclusively for inspections in addition to the permit fee. If the business did have to pay for air inspections, it would cost approximately \$770 for the four required inspections. The remaining inspections currently conducted,

testing, and all of the inspection-related review activities cost approximately \$1,900.

To the extent that any additional facilities begin accepting more than 50 tons of special medical waste each day, MDE revenues would increase due to inspection fee revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** The one existing facility affected under this bill is not classified as a small business. However to the extent that any additional facilities may meet the definition, expenditures could increase due to the inspection fees discussed above.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 1997  
ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 1997  
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