

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 107 (Delegate W. Baker, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Sewage Sludge Storage Facilities - Permit to Install, Alter, or Extend - Requirements for Issuance

This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from issuing a sewage sludge storage facility permit until the facility meets all relevant zoning and land use requirements and the permit has the approval of the county government.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal decrease in revenues; expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate decrease in local revenues and expenditures.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: If a local jurisdiction opposes a permit to establish or alter a sewage sludge storage facility, State revenues due to permit fees could decrease. The fee to construct and operate such a facility is \$350. These facilities might also pay other permit fees, such as the one for research projects (\$25).

Local Effect: Queen Anne's County reports that the authority established for local governments under this bill over the issue of sewage sludge storage facilities could potentially reduce litigation against the county on this issue. To the extent that litigation is reduced, local expenditures on legal fees and settlements could be reduced.

Should a local government choose not to approve such a permit, it would not receive any

revenues from applicable local taxes or permit fees.

Small Business Effect: MDE reports that there are currently six sewage sludge storage facilities in the State, two of which are small businesses. Under the terms of this bill, these businesses would need the approval of the county government in order to make major renovations to their facilities. If such permission is not granted, this could put these businesses at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, any existing or newly formed small business that desires to install a sewage sludge storage facility would need the county's permission to do so.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Queen Anne's and Kent counties, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 1997

ncs

Analysis by: Kim E. Wells-McDonnell

Reviewed by: Paul Ballou

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710