

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1288 (Delegate McHale)

Environmental Matters

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Environment - Newsprint Recycling**

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This amended bill delays the dates by which the recycled content of newspapers and telephone directories distributed in the State must meet specified percentage levels. It also provides that the Newsprint Recycling Board will meet only at the request of the Secretary of Environment.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** Under the bill, newsprint and telephone directory publishers would receive extensions of the time limits for recycled content percentage requirements. This could decrease costs of compliance with these recycling requirements for affected companies. However, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) advises that the Newsprint Recycling Board can excuse publishers from the requirements so long as they prove a good-faith effort to comply. In addition, a limited percentage of such publishers would be considered small businesses.

Suppliers of materials for newsprint, both recycled and otherwise, could also be minimally impacted under this bill. However, it is not known how many of these enterprises would be considered small businesses. MDE advises that publishers of telephone directories are

already meeting recycling requirements.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 1997

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