

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 9 (Senator Stone)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility -  
Maximum Height of Dredged Material**

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This bill establishes the maximum permissible height of the containment dikes at the Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility. The limits are 44 feet above mean low water in the north cell and 28 feet in the south cell.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate effect on State expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential indeterminate effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** The bill codifies the current Dredged Material Management Plan with respect to Hart-Miller Island; therefore, there would be no immediate fiscal impact. However, the statutory limit could affect expenditures in the long-term. The current plan to raise the dikes at Hart-Miller Island is due to the lack of alternative sites for dredge disposal.

If any of the alternative sites currently being worked on are not available in the time frames expected, raising the dikes again at Hart-Miller Island would not be an option under the terms of this bill. The Maryland Department of Transportation might therefore have to use potentially more costly dredge disposal sites, rush completion of alternative sites, or utilize open-water placement. Alternatively, dredging plans might have to be scaled back.

**Small Business Effect:** In the event that dredging plans have to be scaled back, small businesses that rely on port traffic or that assist in dredging operations could potentially be

affected. Conversely, if open-water placement were used, this could have an indeterminable negative impact on the seafood industry.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 16, 1997  
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