

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1050 (Delegate Rzenkowski. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Airport Noise - Homeowners Assistance Pilot Program - Eligibility

This bill authorizes the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) to select for participation in the Homeowners Assistance Pilot Program real property for which an aviation easement was granted to MAA by a previous owner or for which a variance was granted by MAA to a previous owner.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential significant increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: This bill increases the number of homes eligible for participation in the Homeowners Assistance Program. There are currently 423 easement variances that have been granted by MAA. Property owners have granted 313 soundproofing easements and 88 homes are eligible for resale assurance. It is not known how many of these properties are owned by the individuals who originally granted the easements. The per property costs are estimated as follows: \$15,000 for soundproofing easements, \$28,000 for resale assurance, and \$28,000 for easement variances. Depending on the number of new homeowners in the airport noise zone, TTF expenditures could increase.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that the size of the airport noise zone has been diminishing in recent years due to noise attenuating advances in aircrafts. For example,

in calender 1998 there are 850 fewer houses in the airport noise zone. By calender 2003, all aircraft must meet the quieter stage 3 noise level. It is expected that the size of the noise zone will continue to shrink. Accordingly, the number of properties eligible for the Homeowners Assistance Program will decrease in future years.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (Maryland Aviation Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 1998

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