

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 571 (Delegate Edwards)

Commerce and Government Matters

Garrett County - Purchase of Used Property - Procurement Process

This bill authorizes the Garrett County Commissioners to acquire used personal property exceeding \$5,000 on the basis of documented published book value, rather than obtaining two independent appraisals, if by a resolution the commissioners declare that two independent appraisals are not reasonably available. The resolution must be adopted at a regular public session of the county commissioners and must indicate what efforts were made to obtain independent appraisals and the source of the book value relied on in lieu of the appraisals. The bill specifies that the price paid for the property may not exceed a documented published book value that generally would be accepted within the appropriate industry. Under current law, unless acquired at public auction, the commissioners may not acquire used personal property if the price exceeds \$5,000 unless the commissioners first obtain two independent appraisals of the property.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal decrease in Garrett County expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Garrett County advises that for certain property, such as used road equipment, the availability of appraisals is limited. A delay in obtaining an appraisal may result in property no longer being available for sale to the county. Legislative Services advises that the bill could result in a minimal decrease in county expenditures both from savings associated with obtaining independent appraisals and from an increased ability to purchase certain equipment in a timely manner.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

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