

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1002 (Delegate Guns. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

---

**Sewage Sludge Disposal Facilities and Composting Facilities -  
Permit Applications - Departmental Processing**

---

The bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from issuing a permit to install, materially alter, or materially extend a sewage sludge composting or storage facility until the following requirements are met in sequence: (1) except for the opportunity for a public informational meeting, MDE has completed its preliminary technical review of the proposed facility; (2) MDE has reported the finding of its preliminary technical review, in writing, to the chief elected official of the county in which the proposed facility is to be located; and (3) the county has completed its review of the proposed facility and has provided to MDE a written statement that the facility meets all applicable county zoning and land use requirements. Current law prohibits MDE from issuing a permit to a sewage sludge composting facility until the facility meets all zoning and land use requirements of the county, and MDE has a written statement from the county that the county does not oppose the issuance of the permit. This latter provision remains the same under the bill.

MDE is required to cease processing the permit application after the preceding requirements are met until MDE has a written statement from the county government that the facilities meet all applicable zoning and land use requirements.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not materially alter MDE's operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Minimal. The requirements of the bill could be handled with existing local government resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Indeterminate impact on small businesses.

---

## Fiscal Analysis

**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 the 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; Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Garrett, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 1998

lc

---

Analysis by: Mike Sanelli

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710