

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 54 (Delegate W. Baker)

Environmental Matters

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**Sewage Sludge Storage Facilities - Permit to Install, Alter, or Extend - Issuance**

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This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from issuing a sewage sludge storage facility permit until the facility meets all relevant zoning and land use requirements of the county where the sewage sludge composting facility is located. Sewage sludge composting facilities are required to have a written statement that the county does not oppose the issuance of the permit.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would materially alter MDE's operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Minimal impact on local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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**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 this 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.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment; Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; Department of

Legislative Services

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

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