

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1334 (Delegates Guns and Walkup)

Environmental Matters

Environment - Waste Information and Assessment Program

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to prepare an annual report identifying the amount of solid waste by weight or volume disposed of in the State during the previous year. The bill also specifies the types of information to be contained in the report. The bill requires all permitted solid waste acceptance facilities to annually provide MDE the information, except trade secrets, necessary to prepare the report. Beginning September 1, 2000, MDE is to report annually to the House Environmental Matters Committee and Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: MDE estimates that general fund expenditures could increase by \$35,376 in fiscal 1999, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1998 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one Administrative Officer to collect and compile data for the preparation of a yearly report for MDE detailing the amount of solid waste by weight or volume disposed of in Maryland. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures would reflect: (1) full

salary with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that although the amount of information submitted to MDE in order to compile an annual report could be significant, MDE should already have access to at least some of the information required. Until the volume of data to be collected is known with more certainty, this task could be carried out with MDE's existing staff resources, at least initially. If this proves inadequate, then depending on the volume of data involved, it may be more appropriate to hire a part-time or contractual employee than a full-time permanent employee.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 1998
Inc Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 1998

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