

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 655 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Prince George's County - Immediate Eminent Domain -  
Redevelopment of Schools and Related Facilities  
PG 409-98**

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This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the Prince George's County Council to provide for the immediate taking of property situated in the county that is needed for redevelopment or school related purposes.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal expenditure increase.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in Prince George's County revenues and a potential decrease in Prince George's County expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed amendments to the Constitution be publicized in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding a general election. The costs associated with these requirements are borne by the State. The fiscal 1999 budget of the State Board of Elections contains funding for publishing constitutional amendments for the 1998 general election.

**Local Effect:** Current law generally permits localities to immediately take property in cases involving roads and utilities projects. In most other cases, localities must either rely on the voluntary sale of the property by the owner or initiate a condemnation process. Assuming this constitutional amendment is approved by voters, Prince George's County may be able to start redevelopment projects sooner, resulting in potential cost savings associated with reduced legal fees and land acquisition and construction costs. In addition, assuming the redevelopment projects provide for additional county revenue, the immediate taking of property will enable the county to begin collecting the revenue sooner.

If approved by the General Assembly, this constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at the 1998 general election. It should not require additional costs for the county election boards to administer the election.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Prince George's County

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1998  
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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.  
Reviewed by: John Rixev

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixev, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 841-3710  
(301) 858-3710