

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 556 (Senators Colburn and Stoltzfus)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Forest Conservation - Exemptions

This bill provides an additional exemption to the requirements of the Forest Conservation Act. The bill exempts any activity provided that: (1) the activity is conducted on land that is located in a locally designated growth area; (2) the activity is conducted on land that is served by public or community sewer or water systems; (3) the activity does not result in the cutting, clearing, or grading of more than 40,000 square feet of forest; and (4) for any cutting, clearing, or grading of up to 40,000 square feet of forest, the developer submits a statement to the Department of Natural Resources or local authority signed by a licensed engineer or surveyor that indicates the area of forest disturbance.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially alter State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Some local governments could have to amend local forest conservation ordinances to comply with the bill. It is estimated that any additional workload could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Allegany, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 1998

ncs

Analysis by: Mike Sanelli

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710