

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 217 (Delegates Holt and DeCarlo)

Environmental Matters

Litter Control - Litter Prevention Campaign

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to establish a joint litter prevention campaign.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any effect on general and special fund expenditures would depend on the components of a joint litter prevention campaign established by DNR and MDOT. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Currently, DNR, through the State Forest and Park Service, provides many of the services to the public proposed in this bill including the Trash Free Parks program which encourages litter-free parks and open areas. DNR also offers a variety of activities such as nature walks and nature talks that stress the value of recycling and the danger that litter poses to the environment and to wildlife. DNR also encourages community involvement in a variety of clean-up activities, including cleaning up river banks, and working with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

MDOT, through the State Highway Administration (SHA), operates the Adopt-A-Highway program which promotes and encourages keeping roadways litter free. SHA representatives also attend local fairs to inform the public about the Adopt-A-Highway program. SHA also uses prison labor crews to pick up trash along roadways and also has anti-littering signs posted throughout the State. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) currently carries out enforcement activities relating to waste disposal.

If DNR and MDOT determine that these litter prevention activities are not adequate, they would be authorized to establish a joint litter prevention campaign. However, the nature and structure of any new program established between DNR and MDOT would determine any possible increase in expenditures. Certain activities authorized by the bill that are not currently being carried out by DNR and MDOT's existing programs could result in increased expenditures. For example, it is possible that expenditures could increase due to the cost of public service announcements, an activity not currently in practice which is authorized by the bill. Any such expenditures would depend upon the frequency and medium of the public service announcements. Development of community improvement programs could also result in increased expenditures. Once again, however, the nature of the program would determine the expenditures, if any. DNR currently makes signs in-house. Depending on the number of new signs made and placed pursuant to a new program, it is possible that this activity could be handled with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration); Allegany, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Department of Legislative Services

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