

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 732 (Delegate Weir. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Marine Sanitation

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct and complete, in accordance with the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 and the Clean Vessel Act of 1992, a survey of: (1) the number, location, and utilization of operational pumpout stations and waste reception facilities at public and private marinas, mooring areas, docks, and other boating access facilities in the State; and (2) the number of recreational vessels including transient vessels operating in State waters equipped with Type I, Type II, and Type III marine sanitation devices or portable toilets and the areas in which those vessels congregate including areas of overnight anchoring and mooring. The department is also required to identify State waters that support living resources that are sensitive to the discharge of sewage from boats, ships, and other vessels, using criteria established by the federal Water Pollution Control Act. Finally, the bill requires the department to take steps to ensure that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels, as determined under the Water Pollution Control Act, are reasonably available for the sensitive waters of the State by April 15, 2001. The survey must be completed by April 15, 2000.

DNR is required to consult with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in identifying waters of the State that are sensitive to the discharge of sewage and in ensuring that adequate facilities for the removal and treatment of sewage are reasonably available in those sensitive areas. The bill authorizes DNR to make recommendations to MDE on any suggested changes to existing water quality standards.

DNR is required to report to the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs and the House Environmental Matters Committees by January 1, 2000 on the department's strategies, including cooperative efforts with the United States Coast Guard to improve boater compliance with State and federal laws governing marine sanitation.

This bill takes effect June 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The proposed FY 2000 budget includes \$40,000 in the Waterway Improvement Fund project list for the boating assessment survey required by the bill. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 1999
Inc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 1999

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