

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 765 (Delegate Franchot. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Environment - Water Appropriation or Use Permits

This bill alters the State policy concerning water resource appropriation and use. Specifically, the bill establishes that it is State water resource policy to protect adjoining water users and to protect the State's natural resources. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) may not issue a permit for groundwater use if the appropriation will exceed the "sustained yield" of the aquifer, except for an application for dewatering for a mining operation.

In addition, the bill provides that if an applicant, other than for agricultural use, intends a groundwater appropriation in unprecedented quantities for purposes not common to a locality and the appropriation would cause water table or "potentiometric surface" harm to other users, MDE must require the applicant to: (1) perform an alternative water source analysis; and (2) bear the cost of improving adversely impacted neighboring facilities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill generally codifies existing regulations.

Local Effect: None. The bill is not expected to materially alter local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 1999

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