

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 168 (Chairman. Economic and Environmental Affairs) Committee  
(Departmental - Natural Resources)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Environmental Trust Fund - Extension**

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This departmental bill extends the termination date of the environmental surcharge that is paid by electric companies from June 30, 2000 to June 30, 2005. Environmental surcharge fees are deposited in the Environmental Trust Fund.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures would continue through FY 2005.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Natural Resources has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** Electric companies that produce and sell electricity in Maryland are assessed an environmental surcharge on the electricity that they generate. This surcharge is deposited in the Environmental Trust Fund. The trust fund is used to support activities associated with the assessment and management of the cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of electric power and electric power facilities on the State. These activities involve 7 State agencies and are coordinated through the Power Plant Research Program of the Department of Natural Resources. In fiscal 1997 total trust fund revenues (including prior year balance) totaled \$7.9 million, of which \$7.5 million came from the environmental surcharge.

Expenditures for fiscal 1997 were \$7.7 million. In fiscal 1998 total trust fund revenues (including prior year balance) totaled \$8.2 million, of which \$6.9 million came from the environmental surcharge. Expenditures for fiscal 1998 were \$7.7 million. Total trust fund attainment through November 1998 (fiscal 1999) was \$2.45 million, with \$2.43 million coming from the surcharge.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 1999

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