

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 159 (Chairman, Appropriations Committee)  
(Departmental - Environment)

Appropriations

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**Flood Control and Watershed Management - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program**

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This departmental bill requires that grants for capital projects made under the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program which involve only nonfederal funds be matched by at least 25% in local government or private funds. The bill also requires local government or private funds to make up at least 50% of the nonfederal share of funding for projects that involve federal funding.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of the Environment 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**

**Background:** The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP) provides grants to local governments for flood mitigation projects, such as the acquisition of flood prone property for demolition or relocation, installation of flood warning systems, and construction of flood control projects,

including engineering studies required to support the design of these projects. In order to receive CFMGP funds, certain eligibility requirements must be met.

In October 1996 the Governor appointed the Task Force for Western Maryland Flooding to develop recommendations on measures needed to reduce risk of future losses in the region as a result of severe flooding.

Chapter 314 of 1998 (HB 1393) reduced the required local government matching contribution from 50% to 25% under the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program for flood control and watershed management capital projects involving only State and local funds.

**Local Effect:** The bill clarifies the provision of current law that states that the “local” share of capital projects be at least 50% of the project cost for projects involving only State and local funds. The bill specifies that private funds may be used in addition to local government funds as part of the local share of project funding.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Montgomery and Worcester Counties, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 1999

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