

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 241 (Senator Della)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore Development Corporation - Open Meetings Act and Public Access to Records**

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This bill provides that the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is subject to the State's Open Meetings Act and that its records are public.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Allowing public access to BDC meetings and records would not affect Baltimore City finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Any multi-member board, commission, or committee created by State or local laws or appointed by an executive authority of the State or a local government is considered a public body and is subject to the State's Open Meeting Act. The Act requires that public business be performed in an open and public manner and that citizens be allowed to observe. Likewise, public business records collected by the State or a local government must be made available to citizens within a reasonable amount of time following a request. The BDC, though under contract to serve the City of Baltimore, is not a public body.

**Background:** The BDC is a non-profit corporation under contract to the City of Baltimore to act as its economic development agent. The BDC was formed in 1991 through the merger of three non-profit organizations working for the city. It implements and oversees major

economic development projects in Baltimore City.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2000  
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