

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 252 (Delegate Goldwater. *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Maryland Cultural Arts Districts Commission

This bill establishes a 15-member Maryland Cultural Arts Districts Commission as an independent unit of State government operating in the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), which is required to provide staff support for the commission. The commission is authorized to recognize and, after recognition and approval of a management plan, certify cultural arts districts within the State.

The bill requires the commission to submit a report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee on its recommendations for developing benefits for resident artists and art-related professional activities in cultural arts districts.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources. General fund revenues could increase from increased tax revenues, due to new employment and economic development in and around cultural arts districts.

Local Effect: Revenues could increase to the extent that property and personal income tax revenues increase, due to economic development in and around cultural arts districts.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland does not have a system of recognizing and certifying arts districts.

Background: The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), housed within DBED, awards grants and provides technical assistance to arts organizations, individual artists, and county arts councils. MSAC is also responsible for the Artists in Education program, which brings artists and arts education to the State's public schools. In fiscal 1999, MSAC made over 500 grants totaling approximately \$8.4 million.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses located in or in the immediate vicinity of a certified cultural arts district could benefit from increased tourist activity in the area. It cannot be determined at this time how many small businesses could be impacted. Small businesses not located in the vicinity of a cultural arts district could be put at a competitive disadvantage.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Transportation (Mass Transit Administration, State Highway Administration); Higher Education Commission; Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington counties; Department of Legislative Services

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