

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 842 (Delegate Pitkin. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Toxic Paint and Chemicals - Public Information

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to prepare brochures and other written materials for the general public addressing exposure to lead paint and other hazardous or toxic chemicals, including descriptions of: (1) commonly used products that contain hazardous or toxic chemicals; (2) locations where the products may be present; (3) alternate products that may be used for the same purposes; (4) measures to limit exposure to hazardous or toxic chemicals; and (5) steps to take when exposed to the chemicals. MDE must promptly provide the brochures and other written documents to all individuals and agencies upon request. MDE must also develop a statewide public information campaign to publicize the availability of the information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MDE is required to provide access to information to specified individuals on chemical information lists and material safety data sheets it receives from businesses involved with hazardous chemicals in the State.

State Expenditures: MDE advises that to prepare brochures and other written information, provide the public with the information upon request, and develop a statewide campaign to

publicize the availability of the information, it would incur increased expenditures of approximately \$220,000 in fiscal 2001. MDE's estimate assumes that it would need four new permanent positions (\$156,000 in salaries and fringe benefits) and that it would incur operating costs of \$64,000.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that MDE already prepares public information for other types of environmental issues, and it is likely that MDE, other State agencies, and federal agencies already have much of the information that MDE would need to develop the materials. Accordingly, Legislative Services believes that MDE could meet the bill's requirements with existing resources. Should existing resources prove to be inadequate, MDE could seek additional resources through the annual budget process.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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