

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 608 (Senator Conwav. *et al.*)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Open Meetings Act - Public Bodies

This bill provides that the Open Meetings Act applies to Maryland corporations governed by a body of which at least half the members are required by the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws to be appointees of a public officer or employee. However, governing body, affiliates, and committees of the Maryland Association of Counties, the Maryland Municipal League, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, the Maryland Association of Election Officials are declared not to be public bodies, as are business entities established by the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.

The bill is applicable to meetings held on or after October 1, 2000, by those entities which are defined as a "public body" by this bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill is procedural in nature.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Open Meetings Act requires all public bodies to meet in open session; however, closed sessions are permitted in certain circumstances. A public body is defined as an entity that consists of at least two individuals, and is created by the Maryland

Constitution, a State statute, a county charter, an ordinance, a rule, resolution or bylaw, an executive order of the Governor, or an executive order of the chief executive authority of a political subdivision of the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced in the 1998 session as SB 340. The bill passed the Senate but received an unfavorable report by the House Commerce and Government Matters.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2000
drg/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 20, 2000

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