

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1423 (Delegate Taylor)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Sound Level Limits and Noise Control - Shooting Sports Clubs

This bill broadens a current prohibition relating to the adoption of sound level limits and noise control regulations in specified counties. Specifically, the bill provides that a political subdivision may not adopt any noise control regulations that prohibit trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting at certain times by a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of January 1, 2001 or on any range or other property of a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of January 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Except for specified counties and exemptions, a political subdivision may not adopt any noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation that prohibits trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other target shooting between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. by or at a shooting sports club established prior to July 1, 1983. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) establishes noise control standards. In general, political subdivisions may not establish standards less stringent than MDE's.

Small Business Effect: Pursuant to current law, in specified counties, shooting sports clubs established after July 1, 1983 are subject to the potential for increased local regulation relating to sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations. Accordingly, those businesses could potentially be forced out of business if citizen complaints lead to increased local regulation. This bill would expand the protection that is currently provided to clubs established prior to July 1, 1983 to shooting sports clubs established between July 1, 1983 and January 1, 2001. As a result, those shooting sports clubs could continue to operate without the concern of increased regulation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 869 (Senator Jimeno, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment; Calvert, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 8, 2001
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