

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 425 (Allegany County Delegation)
Environmental Matters

Allegany County - Roadside Trees - Cutting Without a Permit

This bill allows Allegany County to trim or cut down a roadside tree in the county that is less than three inches in diameter without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. According to DNR, the number of permits issued annually to Allegany County to trim or cut down roadside trees of less than three inches in diameter is minimal. Accordingly, any decrease in workload would be minimal. Revenues would not be affected because public entities do not currently pay a fee for the permits.

Local Effect: Minimal. Allegany County would no longer have to obtain a permit from DNR before trimming or cutting down roadside trees of less than three inches in diameter. While this could result in a minimal decrease in workload, expenditures will not be directly affected because local jurisdictions do not currently pay a fee for the permits.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, any person who desires to cut down or trim any roadside tree must apply to DNR for a permit. If a tree is unrooted or its branches broken so as to contact telephone, telegraph, electric power, or other wires carrying electric current, or if the tree or its branches endanger persons or property, the tree or its branches may be

removed without first obtaining a permit. A tree standing within the right-of-way of a public road which has not been surfaced with either stone, shell, gravel, concrete, brick, asphalt, or other improved surface may be cut down and removed by the abutting landowner for personal use without first obtaining a permit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1416 of 2000 would have allowed a person to remove a roadside tree without obtaining a permit from DNR if the tree or its roots are causing any curbing, street surface, or sidewalk to be uneven. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee. No further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

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