

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 555 (Senator Colburn)
Finance

**State Highway Administration - Dorchester County - Responsibility for
Maintenance of Woods Road South**

This bill requires the Maryland State Highway Administration to take over the jurisdiction and the maintenance responsibility for Woods Road South in Dorchester County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase by \$750,000 in FY 2002 to improve Woods Road South and by \$5,000 in FY 2003 and each year thereafter to maintain the road to State Highway Administration standards.

Local Effect: Dorchester County expenditures would decrease by \$750,000 in FY 2002 and by \$5,000 in FY 2003 and each year thereafter for avoided maintenance costs.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Dorchester County has jurisdiction over and is responsible for maintaining Woods Road South.

Background: The Eastern Shore Hospital Center is a State-run hospital that provides acute and long-term psychiatric services to residents of Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties as well as a combination of services to residents of all nine

counties of the Eastern Shore. The hospital is staffed by 220 State employees and ten contractual employees. The new hospital is scheduled to open in July 2001.

It is the State Highway Administration's (SHA) policy for a county to fix a county-owned road before the SHA takes over the road for future maintenance. SHA provides interest-free loans to assist jurisdictions in this process. Also, an equal mileage swap is conducted: if the SHA accepts one mile of road from a jurisdiction, the jurisdiction must take over a mile of road from the SHA.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: Woods Road South is a one-mile road serving as the primary access road to the new Eastern Shore Hospital Center in Dorchester County, which will replace the existing hospital center. Woods Road South has been damaged by construction vehicles during the construction of the new State hospital. SHA engineers have estimated the cost to repair Woods Road South at \$750,000. Dorchester County has included \$750,000 in its fiscal 2002 capital budget plan for the repair of Woods Road South and \$5,000 annually for ongoing maintenance costs. If jurisdiction over and maintenance of Woods Road South is transferred to SHA, the State will incur the repair costs and ongoing maintenance costs for the road.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Highway Administration, Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

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cm/hlb

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