

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1026 (Delegate Weir)
Environmental Matters

**Resource Conservation Areas - Lots Created by Intrafamily Transfers and
Preexisting Lots - Sewer Connections**

This bill requires each county water and sewer plan to allow for one connection between a lot created by a “bona fide intrafamily transfer” and a State sewer line bypassing the lot. Each county plan must also allow for one connection between a State sewer line bypassing a parcel if the parcel existed before the creation of resource conservation areas pursuant to current law and was exempt from the 1-in-20-acre density of development permitted for parcels located within resource conservation areas.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: In most jurisdictions, the number of sewer connections that would occur as a result of the bill is not anticipated to be significant. Accordingly, the bill is not anticipated to significantly affect local operations or finances in those areas. The bill could result in an increase in expenditures for some local jurisdictions. For example, Baltimore County reports that as many as 315 connections could occur as a result of the bill. The number that would actually occur is unknown. The county was unable to provide any information relating to the costs of sewer connections. However, the county advises that it uses bonds to finance the work and establishes a long-term financing plan with the owners of the affected property.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Each county must have a county plan or a plan with adjoining counties that is approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), covers at least the ten-year period next following adoption by the county governing body, and deals with water supply systems, sewerage systems, solid waste disposal systems, solid waste acceptance facilities, and the systematic collection and disposal of solid waste. Current law provides several requirements relating to the content of county plans.

A bona fide intrafamily transfer means a transfer to a member of the owner's immediate family of a portion of the owner's property for the purpose of establishing a residence for that family member.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of the Environment; Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Department of Legislative Services

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jm/jr

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