

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1170 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Commerce and Government Matters

Prince George's County - Adequate School Facilities PG 433-02

This bill requires the provisions of Prince George's County Bill No. 40-2001, relating to adequate school facilities, to be submitted to a referendum at the 2002 general election. The county bill remains in effect until the outcome of the referendum.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Prince George's County Board of Elections could add the measure on the 2002 general election ballot at no additional cost.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Council must impose adequate public facilities standards and requirements for public schools.

Background: Chapter 456 of the Acts of 2000 increased the school facilities surcharge in Prince George's County from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and required the county council to impose adequate public facilities standards and requirements for public schools. On November 19, 2001, the Prince George's County Council approved a measure (CB-40-2001) that changed the method of testing proposed development for adequate public

school facilities and in certain cases enabled developers to proceed with projects that result in the need for additional school facilities if the developers contribute sufficient funds to cover the cost of providing the additional facilities. This fee would be in lieu of the usual school facilities surcharge and would be used in cases where a moratorium would exist on new development.

Voters in Prince George's County attempted to petition CB-40-2001 to a referendum under Section 319 of the Prince George's County Charter. The county charter permits referendum on any measure that becomes law pursuant to the county charter. This petition attempt was dropped when the Office of the County Attorney advised, on December 10, 2001, that CB-40-2001 was not adopted under the county charter but under the provisions of public general law. HB 1170 seeks to provide the opportunity for referendum on CB-40-2001 by mandating it to referendum by State law.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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