

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 850 (Senator Currie)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County - Solid Waste Acceptance Facilities - Moratorium and Task Force

This bill prohibits the approval of a transfer station or other solid waste acceptance facility located in Prince George's County that is accessible from a residential roadway or a collector roadway that requires the use of more than 1,000 feet of roadway for access to the station or facility. The bill also establishes a task force and makes other provisions for the application of this legislation.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002 and sunsets June 30, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of the Environment could provide staff support to the task force with existing resources.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues would decrease and expenditures would increase. Any impact cannot be reliably estimated at this time. The Prince George's County Health Department could provide staff support to the task force with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small businesses engaged in trash collection and hauling could be negatively impacted.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill prohibits the approval of a transfer station or other solid waste acceptance facility located in Prince George's County that is accessible from a residential roadway or a collector roadway that requires the use of more than 1,000 feet of roadway for access to the station or facility. The bill also: (1) prohibits a variance for a setback, screening, or other dimensional requirement for a solid waste acceptance facility; (2) stays and holds ineffective until July 1, 2005 any permit granted on or after January 1, 2000 that incorporates a waiver for any solid waste acceptance facility; (3) is retroactive to any permit issued on or after April 10, 2002 to operate a landfill or transfer station, but that has not begun to accept solid waste as of April 10, 2002; and (4) creates a 15-member Prince George's County Task Force on Solid Waste.

The task force must: (1) study the impact of current and proposed land use and permitting decisions relating to solid waste on the northern, central, and southern portions of Prince George's County; (2) study the impact of placement of solid waste on the economic and social environment of communities in Prince George's County; (3) assess the implications of placement of solid waste facilities in relation to environmental justice and federal civil rights laws; (4) develop more equitable distribution of solid waste facilities to serve the citizens of Prince George's County; and (5) recommend to the House and Senate delegations and to the county executive strategies to increase the equitable allocation of solid waste facilities in the county, including recommendations for necessary legislation and regulatory changes.

The task force must conduct public meetings to obtain comment from interested parties and communities throughout Prince George's County. The Maryland Department of the Environment and the Prince George's County Health Department must provide staff support to the task force. Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation for serving on the task force. The task force must report to the county executive and to the county delegations of the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2005.

Current Law: There are no specific provisions of law, absent zoning requirements, in Prince George's County that prohibit the location of a transfer station or a resource recovery facility.

Background: The Prince George's County Department of Public Works defines a residential roadway as a local road that is subject to low traffic volumes and a collector roadway as a major road, other than a freeway, that connects communities and is subject to high traffic volumes. A transfer station is a site that collects solid waste. A resource

recovery facility recovers recyclable materials from solid waste, burns non-recoverable solid waste to generate electricity and reduce solid waste volume, and prepares other non-recyclable or non-recoverable materials for landfills.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County advises that the bill would eliminate nearly all future potential sites for new transfer stations or resource recovery facilities in the county. Accordingly, Prince George's County would be required to transport solid waste out of the county for disposal once existing landfills reach full capacity. This would increase county expenditures for solid waste disposal. In addition, Prince George's County advises that revenues would decrease due to fewer fees collected at existing transfer stations and resource recovery facilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1095 (Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation) - Commerce and Government Matters. Although this bill is designated as a cross file, it is not similar.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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