

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 233 (Delegate Hubbard)  
Environmental Matters

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**Public Service Companies - Cooperation with Municipal Corporations -  
Proposed Capital Projects**

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This bill requires public service companies to submit three-year capital project plans to municipal corporations in which service is provided.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** Potential decrease in expenditures related to roadway inspections and repairs.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill requires that by December 1, 2002, each public service company must submit a report that includes a three-year capital project plan, for projects planned for areas on or near roadways, to each municipal corporation in which it provides service. The initial report must include only projects that will be in progress between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2005.

For each proposed project, the report must include: (1) the scope, purpose and location; (2) the projected construction schedule; and (3) the relationship to roadway construction plans published by the municipal corporation.

By June 1, 2005, and every succeeding three years, each public service company must submit a report that includes a three-year plan as described above to each municipal corporation in which it provides service, that includes proposed projects that will take place between January 1 of the following year and December 31 of the third year.

Each municipal corporation must review the report(s) submitted by each public service company and determine if any of the proposed projects conflicts with published municipal roadway construction plans. If a conflict exists, the municipal corporation may require the public service company to revise its proposed project plan to meet the requirements of the municipal corporation.

**Current Law:** Although some level of coordination of roadway projects may occur through local permitting and inspection activities, there is no statutory requirement for reporting of proposed capital projects by a public service company to a municipal corporation in which it provides service.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** While reporting no direct fiscal impact, the City of Bowie reports that the bill would require involved entities to communicate, and that may provide savings because projects would be better coordinated.

The City of Rockville notes that it incurs additional costs for inspection and future road repairs when public service companies access public rights-of-way. The city would anticipate some decrease in expenditures through better coordination between proposed public service projects and city road maintenance activities.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** City of Rockville, City of Bowie, Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2002  
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