

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 924 (Delegates Franchot and Hixson)
Environmental Matters

**Task Force to Study Exclusion of Watercraft from Wildlife Habitats in
Waterfront Communities**

This bill establishes a five-member task force to study the exclusion of watercraft from wildlife habitats in waterfront communities. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide staff for the task force. On completion of the study, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Staffing costs for DNR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Boat Act, enacted in 1960, governs the operation of watercraft in the State. The Natural Resources Police enforce that law and its regulations.

State Expenditures: DNR advises that general fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$90,200 in fiscal 2003 only to provide staff support to the task force. The

estimate reflects the cost to hire one contractual natural resources planner and one contractual employee for clerical support. This estimate is based on the assumption that full-time staff support would be needed. Legislative Services advises, however, that it appears unlikely at this time that full-time staff would be needed and that DNR could provide sufficient staff support with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2002
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