

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 979 (Delegates Franchot and Hixson)
Environmental Matters

Task Force to Study the Impact of Relaxed Federal Environmental Standards on Maryland

This bill establishes a five-member Task Force to Study the Impact of Relaxed Federal Environmental Standards on Maryland. The task force consists of two members of the Senate of Maryland and three members of the House of Delegates. The Governor must appoint the chairman. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must provide staff for the task force. Findings and recommendations are due to the Governor and the General Assembly on completion of the study.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: More than a dozen major statutes or laws form the legal basis for the programs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Concern has been raised over the Bush Administration's actions and plans to reverse, delay, and relax some federal environmental standards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510