

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 271 (Allegany County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Western Maryland Code Counties - Licensed Design Professionals and Licensed Professional Engineers

This bill permits Western Maryland Code Counties (i.e., Allegany County) to determine which licensed design professionals may design, sign, seal, and date construction drawings for nonresidential or multifamily structures of less than 12,000 square feet in the county.

The bill also allows Western Maryland Code Counties to authorize a licensed professional engineer to prepare, sign, seal, and date construction drawings for structures in the county classified as storage or utility in accordance with the Maryland building performance standards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill would not materially impact local government operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect on Allegany County architects to the extent they would no longer be retained to sign, seal, and date construction drawings for nonresidential or multifamily dwellings in Allegany County that already have a sign, seal, and date provided by an engineer approved by the county.

Analysis

Current Law: All construction drawings must have a licensed architect's sign, seal, and date to be valid for use in all Maryland jurisdictions.

Background: Allegany County indicates that this bill will allow the county to increase development by reducing costs to builders and contractors. Builders and contractors purchase some prefabricated structures from out-of-state firms. An engineer from out of state signs, seals, and dates these structures. Currently, the contractors are required to have a licensed architect in Maryland sign, seal, and date those structures. Architects typically charge fees for this service.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Allegany County; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2003
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