

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 921

(Delegate Sossi)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Land Use - Planning Commissions - Membership**

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This bill provides that a local planning commission must consist of three, five, or seven members. Currently, a planning commission must consist of either five or seven members.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This bill will not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Minimal decrease in local expenditures for compensation of commission members if planning commissions decrease their membership in accordance with the bill.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A local jurisdiction may enact, adopt, amend, and execute a plan and create by ordinance a planning commission. Except as otherwise provided, a planning commission must consist of either five or seven members. Each member is entitled to the compensation that the local legislative body considers appropriate. The term of each member is five years or until the member's successor takes office. The terms of the members must be staggered.

**Background:** Article 66B, which is amended by this bill, governs zoning and planning in the State. It has limited applicability to charter counties and Baltimore City.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 416 (Senator Pipkin) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Planning, Carroll County, Harford County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Queen Anne’s County, St. Mary’s County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2003  
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