

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 451 (Senators Middleton and Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

This bill decreases the frequency, from every five years to every six years, with which a local governing body must revise its local land preservation and recreation plan (LPRP) and with which the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), must revise the State LPRP. The bill requires a local governing body to submit a revised LPRP to DNR and MDP for joint approval one year prior to the revision of the State LPRP, and modifies the criteria to be used for joint approval. The bill requires a local governing body to submit its LPRP to DNR and MDP by July 1, 2005. MDP must prepare and revise the State LPRP by July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: The bill's changes could be handled with existing local resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State LPRP, prepared by MDP, identifies the acquisition and development needs for parks and open space in the State and provides guidance in this area to local jurisdictions. MDP, in cooperation with DNR, must prepare and revise the State LPRP every five years. A local governing body must prepare a local LPRP with acquisition goals based upon the most current population data available from MDP and submit it to DNR and to MDP for joint approval according to the criteria and goals set

forth in the State LPRP and any revisions thereof. A local governing body must revise its local LPRP at least every five years concurrently with the revision of the State LPRP and submit the revised local plan to DNR and MDP for joint approval.

Background: Program Open Space (POS), established in 1969, provides funds for State and local acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites, facilities, and open space. To assure that the funds available under POS are focused on meeting the most important needs, the State and each local jurisdiction must prepare LPRPs every five years. The State LPRP was last updated in March 2001.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1267 of 2002 would have decreased the frequency with which the State LPRP is prepared and revised. The bill received an unfavorable report by the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None designated, although HB 925 is identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Natural Resources, Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

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