

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 372 (Senator Hafer)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Allegany County - Streetlights - Fees for Acquisition and Operation

This bill authorizes the Allegany County Commissioners to provide that the county's Utilities Division, with the written approval of the majority of the residents affected, may assess a fee to acquire and operate existing streetlights in an area serviced by the Utilities Division. The bill also provides that any unpaid fees are a lien against the property served.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Allegany County expenditures would increase for costs associated with acquiring and operating streetlights. Allegany County revenues would increase due to fees collected from residents to acquire and operate streetlights.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Allegany County Commissioners do not have the authority to permit the county's Utilities Division to assess a fee to acquire and operate existing streetlights.

Background: Allegany County advises that it recently constructed a new water system for a residential neighborhood called Grahamtown and the small community water company serving that neighborhood ceased to exist. The county advises the defunct community water company also provided streetlight service to the residents of Grahamtown. The county wishes to maintain the streetlight service once provided by the

defunct community water company, but needs the General Assembly's permission to assume that responsibility. Additionally, the county advises that it wants to avoid creating special taxing districts for the sole purpose of paying for and maintaining residential streetlights.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2003
mdf/hlb

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