

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 603 (Delegate Glassman, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board

This bill requires the Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board to advise the Secretary of Natural Resources regarding the granting or denial of an application for a water appropriation permit that will directly impact a river that is part of the Scenic and Wild Rivers Program. The board must meet with the appropriate local scenic and river advisory board at least 60 days before providing such advice, and must meet upon the written request of the chairman of a local scenic and wild river board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly affect State finances. While the bill could increase the review time involved with some water appropriation permit applications, the board already discusses the impacts of those permits on rivers in the program and provides comments to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the agency that issues those permits.

Local Effect: To the extent the bill results in a delay in the issuance of some water appropriation permits, any local government applying for such a permit would be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent the bill results in a delay in the issuance of some water appropriation permits, any small business applying for such a permit would be affected.

Analysis

Current Law: Water appropriation permits must be obtained from MDE.

The Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board was established in 1968. The board reviews all inventories, studies, plans, rules, and regulations concerning the Scenic and Wild Rivers Program. The board also reviews the recommendations of the Secretary of Natural Resources, local governing bodies, and local advisory boards. The board advises the General Assembly on resource management plans for rivers, shorelines, and related lands included in the program, and recommends additional rivers and tributaries for the program. With the advice and consent of the local governing body, the board appoints a local scenic and wild river advisory board for each river in the program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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