

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 943

(Delegate Conway, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Municipal Corporations - Proposed Annexation Resolutions - Notice and Hearing Requirements**

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This bill decreases from four to two the number of times that a notice of a proposed annexation resolution for a total area of 25 acres of land or less must be published in a newspaper of general circulation preceding a public hearing. The bill also specifies that the public hearing concerning a proposed annexation resolution for a total area of 25 acres of land or less must be set not less than 15 days after the second publication of the notice.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Municipal government expenditures would decrease due to avoided costs associated with publishing notices of proposed annexation resolutions. Any decrease is expected to be minimal.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** After introduction of an annexation resolution into the legislative body of a municipality, the mayor or other chief executive officer of a municipal corporation must give notice of the proposed annexation by publication in a newspaper of general circulation at least four times at not less than weekly intervals preceding a public hearing on the proposed annexation. The public notices must specify a time and place at which

the legislative body will hold a public hearing on the annexation resolution and the public hearing must be within 15 days of the last notice.

**Background:** The cost of advertising notices of proposed annexation resolutions in newspapers of general circulation varies across the State. Generally, the costs of publishing a notice depend on the newspaper's fees and the length of the notice. For instance, in Worcester County it costs approximately \$675 per week to place public notices in newspapers in general circulation in the county.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** This bill is the third reader version of HB 1333 of 2002 that was amended by the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. It received an unfavorable report by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None, although SB 467 is the same.

**Information Source(s):** City of Bowie, Town of Elkton, Town of Thurmont, City of Takoma Park, City of Annapolis, Maryland State Board of Elections, Maryland Municipal League, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2003  
mdf/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2003

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Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510