

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

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

House Bill 986

(Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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**Washington County - Advertising Intent to Lease Real Property**

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This bill requires the Washington County Commissioners to advertise at least once in a newspaper of general distribution in the county the county commissioners' intent to lease real property to another person or entity if the monthly rent for the real property is greater than \$2,000. The bill also clarifies that funds used to purchase real estate at public or private sale may not be expended from the general fund of Washington County unless a public hearing has been held on the pending purchase and the proceeds from sales of all existing school facilities, school lands, and other properties used by schools and titled in the name of the county or branch, department, or derivative of the county are paid in the Special School Fund.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. This bill codifies existing practice in Washington County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Washington County Commissioners' intent to lease real property must be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general distribution in the county.

The Washington County Commissioners may buy at public or private sale or accept without consideration any real estate which in their judgment is useful to the county.

Funds may not be expended from the general fund of Washington County for the acquisition of real property unless a public hearing has been held on the pending purchase and the proceeds from sales of all existing school facilities, school lands, and/or other properties used by schools and titled in the name of the county or branch, department, or derivative of the county are paid in the Special School Fund.

**Background:** Washington County advises that it owns and leases approximately 375 hangers at the Hagerstown Regional Airport. The county leases many of the hangers on a month-to-month basis at approximately \$300 per month. Due to high demand the county has stopped advertising monthly leases at the airport. The Special School Fund was created by the Washington County School Bond Fund Act of 1963 and is used for school construction and repair.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2003  
mdf/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2003

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