

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1177

(Delegate Edwards)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Garrett County - Sanitary District - Governing Body

This emergency bill abolishes the Garrett County Sanitary Commission and provides instead that the Garrett County Commissioners must govern the county's sanitary district.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Garrett County expenditures could increase minimally due to the transfer of sanitary district employees to the county personnel system. Expenditures relating to the sanitary commission would decrease by \$10,200. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Garrett County Sanitary Commission is appointed by the Garrett County Commissioners; however, the county commissioners may not exercise jurisdiction over the sanitary commission.

Background: The Garrett County Sanitary Commission has five members and each member serves a six-year term. The chairman of the sanitary commission receives a salary of \$2,200 and the other four commissioners receive salaries of \$2,000. The commission meets monthly, monitors all water and sewerage projects in the county, and is charged with providing safe and reliable water to consumers and returning clean water

to the environment. The Garrett County Sanitary District is funded by water and sewer use charges and has 23 employees.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Garrett County Sanitary District would become a county agency with all 23 employees becoming county employees at a level of compensation commensurate with their current salaries. No sanitary district employee would realize a decrease in compensation and most employees could realize a slight increase in compensation. Garrett County advises that the current sanitary commissioners could be retained in an advisory capacity to the Garrett County Commissioners, but that the sanitary commissioners would not receive compensation for their services. Accordingly, Garrett County expenditures would decrease by \$10,200 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 767 (Senator Hafer) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2003
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