

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1533

(Delegate Hammen)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alleys

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Mayor and Baltimore City Council to close or gate an alley no longer needed for through pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The bill also authorizes the mayor and city council to lease a closed or gated alley to an entity that consists of property owners whose lots abut the alley.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase minimally to close and gate alleys. Revenues could increase minimally due to lease payments.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore City Mayor and Baltimore City Council have the authority to regulate the construction and installation of public and private streets, lanes, and alleys used or intended to be used by the public. The mayor and city council are also authorized to ascertain, fix, establish, or mark the lines and grades of these areas, to regulate the construction and installation of utilities and other facilities in these areas, and to prevent the encroachment on or obstruction of these areas.

Background: Baltimore City advises that trash collection in larger alleys would preclude closing and gating of those alleys. The city further advises that any agreement between an entity and the city regarding a closed or gated alley would cover any and all issues of entry by utility companies and public safety personnel and equipment.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City advises that alleys in the city no longer needed for through pedestrian or vehicular traffic would be closed and gated for the purpose of providing space for neighborhood groups to create recreational areas for neighborhood residents. The city anticipates only a few alleys would be closed and gated under the bill at minimal expense for constructing closures and gates including the costs of restricting access to those areas. The city further anticipates that lease payments to the city would only cover the costs of the closures and gates. Accordingly, Baltimore City finances would not be materially affected by closing and gating alleys in these instances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 22, 2004
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