

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1005

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission - Membership

This bill adds one nonvoting member to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. The bill specifies the nonvoting member to be the commanding officer of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station or a designee who serves at the pleasure of the commanding officer. The nonvoting member of the commission must represent the interests of the U.S. Navy concerning the commission's water and sewer services at the base, must serve until the succeeding commanding officer is appointed, and is not entitled to compensation. The bill also clarifies the qualifications and responsibilities of the voting members of the commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: St. Mary's County finances would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission is composed of seven members each of whom have voting rights. Commission members are appointed by the St. Mary's County Commissioners from the following areas:

- one member each from the first, third, sixth, seventh, and eighth election districts;
- one member from the second or ninth election districts; and

- one member from the fourth or fifth election districts.

Commission members must reside in the district they represent, be a resident taxpayer of the county, and be a qualified voter. Commission members are appointed for three-year terms and serve until their successors are appointed and have qualified. Compensation of commission members is determined by the St. Mary's County Commissioners.

Background: The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission was created in 1957 (Chapter 816 of 1957). The first meeting of the commission was held in January 1964. The commission is charged with overseeing the St. Mary's County sanitary districts and is exempt from the State's sanitary district provisions (Chapter 341 of 1967).

The Patuxent River Naval Air Station was commissioned in 1943 to maintain and operate facilities and provide materials to support operations of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. The base employs approximately 19,100 people. The U.S. Navy sold the base's water and sewer system to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission in the fall of 2003.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2004
n/ljm

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

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