

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 418

(Allegany County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Counties - Coal Tax - Annual Meeting and Notice

This bill eliminates the requirement that a county that collects coal taxes must meet annually with any other county that imposes the coal tax and any municipality that receives coal tax revenues. The county instead is required to notify these counties and municipalities annually that they may request a meeting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would affect local government operations only.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Any county that imposes a coal tax must meet annually with other counties that impose a coal tax and any municipality that receives coal tax revenues.

Background: Counties can impose a \$0.30 per ton tax on coal that is surface-mined and may distribute up to \$0.05 per ton to municipal corporations for the repair and maintenance of municipal coal haul roads and bridges. Allegany County collected \$332,166 in coal taxes in fiscal 2003 and distributed part of the revenues to the municipalities of Barton, Frostburg, Lonaconing, Midland, and Westernport. Garrett County collected \$184,856 in coal taxes in fiscal 2003 and distributed \$35,772 to the municipalities of Grantsville, Friendsville, and Kitzmiller. Officials from these

municipalities and counties have indicated that attendance at these required annual has been low.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Bureau of Mining, Washington County, Allegany County, Garrett County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2004
n/mdr

Analysis by: Robert J. Rehrmann

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