

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 899 (Delegates Hurson and Morhaim)
Health and Government Operations

State Government - Board of Public Works - Meetings

This bill enables a member of the Board of Public Works to add an item to the agenda of a meeting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Enabling a board member to add an item to the agenda would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Board of Public Works is authorized to adopt regulations to carry out its functions. The State Constitution specifies that a majority of the board is competent to act. The Attorney General has interpreted this to mean that two members can direct an item to be placed on the agenda.

Background: The Board of Public Works is a constitutionally established body composed of the Governor, the Comptroller, and the Treasurer. The Constitution of Maryland requires the board to meet at least four times per year to hear and determine such matters as affect the public works of the State and as the General Assembly may confer upon them the power to decide. In practice, the board meets on a bi-weekly basis.

The board approves appropriations from State loans authorized by the General Assembly and appropriations for capital improvements, except those for State roads, bridges, and highways. The board approves leases and contracts executed by State agencies and is responsible for adoption and promulgation of rules, regulations, and procedures for administering the State procurement law. The board also approves certain actions of the State Public School Construction Program, including amounts that are paid to the counties and Baltimore City. The amount and timing of bond sales are also approved by the board. Other board duties include the management of a contingency fund. The board is able to supplement State appropriations when necessary by using this fund. The board may also grant funds to private nonprofit groups and pay settlements and judgments against the State. The board is also responsible for the issuance of licenses to people seeking to dredge in or place fill on State tidal wetlands.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Board of Public Works, Governor's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2004
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