

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1593 (Delegate Trueschler)
Health and Government Operations

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Portable Restrooms - Waterless
Soap Dispensers**

This bill requires a “portable restroom” available for use to individuals other than the owner to have a waterless soap dispenser. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potentially meaningful depending on the cost of installing waterless soap dispensers in portable restrooms.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute does not require a portable restroom to be equipped with a waterless soap dispenser.

Background: The Maryland Department of the Environment regulates portable restroom use, including waste disposal. MDE does not issue permits for portable restrooms. The number of portable restrooms in the State is unknown.

State Expenditures: The bill’s requirements could be handled with existing resources. The bill does not require the regulations to provide for a visual inspection of each

restroom. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) assumes there would be an inspection only after DHMH received a complaint.

DHMH estimated that the bill would require hiring 24 part-time sanitarians to conduct the investigations (one for each jurisdiction) and one contractual sanitarian to write the regulations at a cost of \$543,558 in fiscal 2006. DLS disagrees with this estimate. DHMH could require portable restrooms to include waterless soap dispensers in its regulations. A sanitarian already employed by DHMH could respond to any public complaints. Further, existing DHMH staff could write the regulations required to implement this bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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mam/ljm

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