

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 914 (Washington County Delegation)
Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Weed Control - Regulation and Removal

This bill authorizes the Washington County Commissioners to adopt regulations for restricting the growth of nonnoxious weeds on any real property in the county. Furthermore, the commissioners are authorized to place a lien on any real property for unpaid charges resulting from the removal of any unauthorized accumulation of weeds or debris. The county is required to provide reasonable notice to the property owner before it removes weeds or debris from the property which could result in the placing of a lien on the property.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. This bill codifies existing practice.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Washington County adopted its current weed ordinance in May 1989. The weed ordinance prohibits property owners, occupants, or persons in control of the land (with some exceptions) from allowing vegetation on their property to grow higher than 18 inches. If the individual does not comply with the ordinance, the county will serve written notice to cut the weeds or other vegetation to less than five inches in height. If the individual does not comply with the written notice within 10 days, the county will either destroy or cut the vegetation. Any expenses incurred must be paid by the property owner, and until it is paid, a lien will be placed on the property.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2005
n/hlb

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