

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 567 (Cecil County Delegation)
Environmental Matters

Cecil County - Planning Commission - Meetings - Notice of Time, Place, and Agenda

This bill requires the Cecil County Planning Commission to publish a notice of the time and place of each meeting that is open to the public along with a summary of the proposed meeting agenda in at least one newspaper with general circulation in the county once each week for two successive weeks. The first notice must be published at least 15 days prior to the meeting. If the agenda contains an item that is required by law to be decided within a certain time frame, the time frame must be postponed for up to 30 days to allow the commission time to publish the public notice of the meeting as required by this bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The change would not directly affect Cecil County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The planning commission has six regular members and one alternate member who each serve three-year terms. Before recommending the adoption of the plan or any part or amendment, a planning commission must hold at least one public hearing. The Cecil County Planning Commission, however, is not currently required to publish, in advance, meeting times and agendas for meetings that are open to the public.

Background: The Cecil County Planning Commission is responsible for evaluating and approving or disapproving of plans for subdivisions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the county. Additionally, the commission is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the board of county commissioners regarding various planning and development issues, including proposed changes to the Cecil County Comprehensive Plan; amendments to the Cecil County Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Program; amendments to the Cecil County zoning ordinance; acquisition and development of lands for open space or recreation purposes; designation of historic sites; annexations; as well as an annual review of the Capital Improvement Program.

Local Fiscal Effect: Cecil County advises that they currently publish a notice for each public meeting for the Cecil County Planning Commission. Therefore, this bill would not affect county finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 863 (Senators Pipkin and Jacobs) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2005
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