

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1469

(Delegate Montgomery, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay Trust - Scope of Authority

This bill expands the purpose and scope of the Chesapeake Bay Trust to include aquatic and land resources of the State other than those related to the Chesapeake Bay.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a private, nonprofit organization established by the General Assembly in 1985 to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay. The trust is authorized to, among other things: (1) provide grants to a variety of entities for citizen involvement projects; (2) develop projects for corporate sponsorship; and (3) develop criteria for citizen involvement projects or corporate sponsorship projects. In developing the criteria for projects, the trust is authorized to consider activities that: (1) preserve water quality and habitat; (2) restore aquatic and land resources; (3) produce educational materials on the Chesapeake Bay; (4) provide educational scholarships or training; and (5) promote Chesapeake Bay conservation programs.

Background: The trust is statutorily limited to funding projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which makes up roughly 95% of the State. However, the trust advises that it receives contributions from all parts of the State through the purchase of the Chesapeake Bay license plate and the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form. For example, in 2003, the trust received an estimated \$40,000 in contributions from Worcester County; much of the county falls within the Atlantic Coastal Bays watershed. By allowing the trust to fund projects outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the bill would enable the trust to support projects that increase participation in the restoration and protection of the Atlantic Coastal Bays and the streams and rivers of the western portion of Garrett County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Chesapeake Bay Trust, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2005
n/ljm

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