

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 334 (Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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**Local Government - Tri-County Council for Western Maryland - Membership**

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This bill removes the nonvoting members from the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland. Additionally, the bill changes the appointment of the three elected municipal officials on the council so that these officials are appointed by their respective board of county commissioners. The bill clarifies that the six private citizens who sit on the council are to be appointed by their respective board of county commissioners and may not be an elected official or an employee of a unit of local government. Council members-at-large serve at the pleasure of their respective board of county commissioners and their term of office coincides with the term of their appointing board of county commissioners.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Altering the appointment procedures of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland would not affect the finances of Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Tri-County Council for Western Maryland is comprised of 23 voting members and four nonvoting members from Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties. The 23 voting members are selected as follows:

- nine representatives of the county governments (three from each county, appointed by their respective county commissioners);
- three municipal elected officials (one from each county appointed by their respective municipal governments);
- the chairman or the chairman's designee of each county's delegation to the House of Delegates;
- the two State Senators representing the region and residing in one of the three counties; and
- six private citizens (two from each county, and appointed by their respective county governments).

The four remaining council members are members of the General Assembly residing in one of the three counties and who do not vote on the council.

**Background:** The Tri-County Council for Western Maryland is a regional economic development organization representing Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties in Western Maryland.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 268 (Garrett County Delegation, Allegany County Delegation, and Washington County Delegation) – Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2006  
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