

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1347

(Delegates G. Clagett and McIntosh)

Environmental Matters

---

**Maryland Port Administration - Executive Director - Authority to Remove**

---

This bill removes the authority of the chairman of the Maryland Port Commission (MPC) to remove the executive director of the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). Instead, the executive director may be removed by a majority vote of MPC as a whole.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** MPA is currently a modal administration under the Maryland Department of Transportation, but MPA oversight is generally provided by MPC, including oversight over port operations, MPA-created private operating companies, MPA expenditures, and MPA administration.

The Secretary of Transportation does not directly have the power to adopt or review rules and regulations for MPA or reassign MPA staff, duties, or powers. However, the Secretary is the chairman of MPC. All actions of MPC that, in the judgment of the chairman, impact on the Transportation Trust Fund are subject to the approval of the

chairman. The chairman appoints and can remove the executive director of MPA as well as approves MPA's budget.

**Background:** MPA has 292 authorized positions and a budget of \$191.2 million for fiscal 2006. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2007 budget includes an allowance of \$212.8 million and 292 authorized positions. MPA's terminals at the port handle 85% of foreign general cargo (e.g., automobiles, containers, forest projects) and moved a total of 8.1 million tons of general cargo in fiscal 2005. This accounts for 30% of the port's foreign cargo. Most of the port's bulk cargo (ore, coal, grain, etc.) is handled by private terminals. MPA's estimated fiscal 2006 net income is \$2.5 million.

Over 100 public ports operate in the United States and U.S. territories. Public port agencies include port authorities; special purpose navigation districts; bi-state authorities; and departments of state, county, and municipal government. The Port of Baltimore ranked fourteenth in U.S. cargo volume in 2004.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2006  
nas/ljm

---

Analysis by: Nora C. McArdle

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510