

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 678

(Delegate C. Davis, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Department of the Environment - Rubble Landfills - Location**

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This emergency bill prohibits the Secretary of the Environment from issuing a permit to construct or operate a rubble landfill within two miles of Bowie State University or St. John AME Church.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties report that the bill would not significantly affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful impact on owners of proposed facilities.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A solid waste acceptance facility means any sanitary landfill, incinerator, transfer station, or plant whose primary purpose is to dispose of, treat, or process solid waste. Siting and other land use or zoning criteria for proposed solid waste acceptance facilities are the responsibility of local jurisdictions. Solid waste acceptance facilities are permitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Applicants obtain local approvals prior to applying to MDE for a permit. MDE may not issue any permit to construct or operate a transfer station in Prince George's County for disposal of solid waste within two miles of Bowie State University.

**Background:** Bowie State University is located in Prince George's County. St. John AME Church is located in Anne Arundel County.

**Small Business Effect:** According to MDE, at least two proposed landfills could be affected by the bill. Neither facility has a permit; both are in the application review process. Accordingly, any impact would be speculative. However, MDE advises that the potential profit from a commercial landfill could be millions to billions of dollars over the life of the facility.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Identical legislation was introduced as HB 743 of 2004 and HB 1121 of 2003. The House Environmental Matters Committee held a hearing on both bills, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2006  
mam/ljm

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