

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 753

(Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Washington County Board of County Commissioners - Violations of Civil
Offenses - Authority

This bill authorizes the Washington County Commissioners to provide that a violation of any ordinance relating to requirements for building standards or the regulation of skilled trade services is a civil offense. The Board must adopt ordinances to carry out these provisions. Before adopting such an ordinance, the county commissioners must provide seven copies of the ordinance to the Washington County Delegation to the General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any additional caseload could be handled with existing resources of the District Court.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Washington County revenue due to increased citation fees. Any additional workload to issue additional citations could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A violation of a municipal ordinance is a civil infraction unless declared to be a misdemeanor or felony by State law. Such infractions are subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, with any disputes as to the infraction under the jurisdiction of the District Court.

Generally, regulation of building standards and related skilled trade services in Washington County is governed by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and the Washington County Department of Permits and Inspections. Washington County has adopted the Building Officials Code Administrators National Building Code, amended in 1996, as the building code for the county. State regulations have adopted the 2003 International Building Code and the 2003 Residential Code.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2007
ncs/hlb

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