

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 165

(Senator Astle)

Finance

Environmental Matters

Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland to evaluate and make recommendations regarding growing the boating industry within the State. The Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide staff for the task force. Reporting requirements are established.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates July 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DBED and DNR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force is charged with:

- evaluating incentives to encourage large boats and yachts to use marinas and boatyards for recreation, repair, and outfitting within the State;

- determining ways to encourage and promote tourism throughout waters of the State;
- researching the economic impact that marine industries and recreational boaters contribute to the State's economy; and
- identifying barriers that limit the State's competitiveness with other states regarding the boating industry and developing methods to overcome those barriers.

A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

The task force must submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly by November 30, 2007. A final report is due by June 30, 2008.

Background: According to a survey by the University of Maryland (Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program), in 2000, recreational boaters spent approximately \$970 million that directly impacted Maryland recreational boating and related businesses. When the indirect and induced effects of that spending were factored in, the study reports that the impact on the Maryland economy in 2000 was about \$1.6 billion.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 305 (Delegates Frush and Hubbard) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Business and Economic Development, University of Maryland (Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2007
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Analysis by: Lesley G. Cook

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