

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 777

(Senator Stoltzfus)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Delmarva Advisory Council - Repeal

This bill repeals the Delmarva Advisory Council. It also removes the requirement that one member of the Rural Maryland Council represent the Delmarva Advisory Council and requires the Department of Legislative Services to notify the appropriate officials in Delaware and Virginia of the council's dissolution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Delmarva Advisory Council is a defunct council that last received funding in 2004 and has not met for years.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Delmarva Advisory Council is a regional advisory council created by mutual legislation with Virginia and Delaware. It must hold quarterly and yearly meetings. The council is to serve in an advisory capacity only, and assist in the identification of perceived regional problems and issues, and assist to develop effective solutions.

Background: The Delmarva Advisory Council was formed in 1964 as a voluntary association by the governors of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. It was established in statute by Chapter 671 of 1984. The Delmarva Peninsula in Maryland includes the

Eastern Shore (part of Cecil County and all of Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties). The Delmarva Peninsula also extends to Kent and Sussex counties and part of New Castle county in Delaware and Accomack and Northampton counties in Virginia.

The council last received State funding in 2004, and the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) advises that the council has not met for years. DBED advises that the Rural Maryland Council, the Upper Shore Regional Council, the Mid-Shore Regional Council, and the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore, perform similar functions to those the council used to perform.

The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Mid-Shore Regional Council, and the Upper Shore Regional Council are regional planning and development agencies that collectively serve all the counties served by the Delmarva Advisory Council. DBED advises that these regional planning councils consult with representatives from other states when a regional issue applies to other states; for example, the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore is involved in the rural broadband initiative, which involves Virginia as well.

The Rural Maryland Council is a rural development agency that addresses the issues and concerns of rural Marylanders, including the Eastern Shore.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1133 (Delegate Elmore) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives, Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2007
ncs/rhh

Analysis by: Nora C. McArdle

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