

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 180 (Allegany County Delegation)
Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Allegany County Planning Commission - Membership

This bill increases the membership of the Allegany County Planning Commission from seven to nine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect Allegany County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Allegany County Planning Commission consists of seven members who serve a five-year term. The terms of two members must be staggered.

Members of a planning commission are appointed by the local legislative body or by the person designated as the appointing power in the ordinance that created the commission. Where there is a single local elected executive, the members are appointed by the local executive and confirmed by the local legislative body. Members of a planning commission are entitled to the compensation that the local legislative body considers appropriate.

Background: Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes each county and municipal corporation to enact ordinances establishing planning commissions, enact

zoning ordinances, and have boards of zoning appeals. All counties have a planning office as well as a planning commission or board.

Local planning commissions are required to develop and approve a comprehensive plan that must • be recommended to the local legislative body for adoption; and • serve as a guide to public and private actions and decisions relating to development. State law specifies the elements that each plan must contain.

Plans must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised and amended at least once every six years. The Maryland Department of the Environment reviews the mineral resources plan elements as well as the water resources elements. Both MDE and the Department of Natural Resources are required to review the sensitive areas elements.

Local Fiscal Effect: Allegany County advises that members of the planning commission receive no compensation therefore increasing the number of commissioners would not affect county revenues or expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

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mll/hlb

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