

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 254

(Frederick County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Budget and Taxation

Annual Financial and Audit Reports - Filing Date

This bill alters the filing date by which Frederick County must submit its annual financial report to the Department of Legislative Services and its annual audit to the State Legislative Auditor from November 1 to January 1.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Altering Frederick County's annual financial report deadline would not affect county finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Counties, municipal corporations, and taxing districts must file a financial report covering the full period of the previous fiscal year by November 1 to DLS. Counties, municipal corporations, and taxing districts with a population greater than 400,000, however, may take until January 1 to file their financial report. The annual financial report for Howard County is due December 1.

Counties, municipal corporations, and taxing districts must also submit an annual audit report covering the full period of the previous fiscal year by November 1 to the State legislative auditor. Counties, municipal corporations, and taxing districts with a

population greater than 400,000, however, may take until January 1 to file their annual audit report.

Background: The annual financial report due to DLS is commonly known as the *Uniform Financial Report*. It has been common practice for DLS to grant an extension of the annual financial report upon receipt of a reasonable request from a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district. Chapter 246 of 2002 authorized counties, municipal corporations, and special taxing districts with a population greater than 400,000 to submit the UFR by January 1 of the following year. Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties are the only jurisdictions whose population is greater than 400,000. As of July 1, 2006, Frederick County's population was 222,938. Chapter 226 of 2007 extended the filing deadline for Howard County to submit the UFR until December 1.

Additional Comments: The fiscal year for counties, municipalities, and special taxing districts in Maryland ends June 30. Of the 18 counties that were required to submit a UFR by November 1, five submitted the report on time. Three required an additional 30 days, five required an extra 90 days, and two required an extra 120 days. Three counties have not yet submitted a UFR for fiscal 2007.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 310 (Senators Brinkley and Mooney) – Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2008
mcp/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 1, 2008

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