

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 335

(Cecil County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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Cecil County - Waste Disposal - Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

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This bill authorizes Cecil County to become a participating county in the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** If Cecil County chooses to become a participant, it may be subject to a \$50,000 annual fee; county finances could be affected depending on the scope of any project undertaken by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority on behalf of the county. The authority's revenues could increase by \$50,000 annually; finances could be affected depending on the scope of any project undertaken on behalf of the county.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority was created in 1980 as a public instrumentality of the State. The authority's mission is to plan and develop waste management systems that meet the highest environmental standards while providing the most efficient and reliable waste disposal services possible.

**Background:** Eight jurisdictions (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery counties) currently participate in the authority.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** According to the authority, its current policy is to assess a \$50,000 annual fee to participating jurisdictions that do not have any projects that generate revenues for the authority. Currently, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Frederick, and Howard counties pay such a fee. If Cecil County joins the authority, it is reasonable to assume the county could also be required to pay \$50,000 annually; in exchange, the county would benefit from the authority's ability to provide a regional perspective on solid waste planning and management. County finances could be affected depending upon the scope of any solid waste program undertaken by the authority and the impact of such a program on the county's existing solid waste activities.

The authority could handle any increase in workload with existing staff. Authority revenues could increase by \$50,000 annually as discussed above. Authority finances could be affected depending on the scope of any solid waste program undertaken on behalf of the county.

According to the authority, Cecil County is interested in joining so it can participate in a proposed regional waste-to-energy facility the authority is developing.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Cecil County, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2008  
mll/hlb

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