

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 39

(Senator Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure - Additional Members

This bill increases the membership of the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure from 12 to 16 members by adding 2 senators and 2 delegates.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure was established by Chapter 469 of 2007. The committee provides legislative oversight of the State's response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, mandated by the U.S. Congress. In cooperation with State and local governments, the committee seeks to speed the approval of improvements to the infrastructure needed to support the influx of people and jobs associated with the realignment of federal military bases in Maryland. Such improvements are needed in planning and the infrastructure for education, health care, housing, transportation, and water and sewer.

The committee consists of 12 members: 6 senators appointed by the President of the Senate, and 6 delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Background: The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990 mandated the federal process for addressing an excess capacity of military facilities, commonly known as “BRAC.” The 2005 BRAC represented the first major base closure and realignment activity in 10 years. Through the 2005 BRAC, Maryland is expected to gain approximately 16,000 Department of Defense military and civilian jobs, phased in from 2005 to 2011. All 2005 BRAC recommendations must be implemented by 2011. The State’s primary employment gains will be at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort George G. Meade, and the newly renamed Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (in Bethesda) and are expected to be highly skilled, well-paid jobs.

In a December 2006 report, the Maryland Department of Planning advised that it anticipates 28,176 new households as a result of the 2005 BRAC. Approximately 53.4% of the new households are projected to be high income (over \$75,000 annually), and an additional 28.4% are projected to be middle income (\$30,001 to \$75,000 annually).

In addition to the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure that provides legislative oversight, there is a 10-member BRAC Subcabinet in State government chaired by the Lieutenant Governor.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives, Department of Legislative Services

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