

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 262

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Finance

Anne Arundel County - Tipton Airport Authority - Runway Length

This bill alters, from 4,000 to 4,200 feet, the maximum allowable runway length for Tipton Airport.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County finances are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 539 of 1997 authorized Anne Arundel County to establish the Tipton Airport Authority as a public corporation to acquire, equip, maintain, and operate Tipton Airport at Fort George G. Meade.

The Tipton Airport Authority may not extend any runway beyond 4,000 feet. Before any runway may be extended beyond 3,000 feet, there must first be a public meeting explaining the proposed extension and allowing comments, and the Anne Arundel County Council must grant approval by affirmative majority vote.

Background: Tipton Airport served as a U.S. Army airfield until being designated for privatization by the 1988 Base Realignment and Closure Act. The airport closed in 1995, reopened in 1999, and is operated by the Tipton Airport Authority.

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) advises that Tipton Airport acts as a reliever to Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall airport, and as such, is important to the National Airspace System. The airport currently accommodates light general aviation aircraft (mainly single-engine and light multi-engine airplanes and helicopters). MAA indicates that the current airport layout plan calls for a runway of 4,200 feet. The current runway length is 3,000 feet.

The airport is not designed or used for commercial service; it is used for recreational, private, and business purposes. Tipton Airport Authority contends that a longer runway would improve safety for its users.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Tipton Airport Authority, Maryland Department of Transportation (Maryland Aviation Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2009
mcp/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2009

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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