

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 154 (Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Appropriations

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Environment - Green Building Council

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This bill permanently renews the Green Building Council's original charge and requires that it also provide annual recommendations for expanding green building in the State.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The changes do not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 116 of 2007 codified the Maryland Green Building Council, which had been established by executive order but had been dormant for several years. Chapter 116 charged the council with completing three tasks by September 30, 2007:

- evaluating current green building technologies;
- recommending cost-effective green building technologies that the State may consider incorporating into the construction of new State facilities; and
- developing a list of building types for which green building technologies should not be applied.

The council must issue annual reports by November 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly that include recommendations for implementing a State higher performance building program and describe any progress that has been made in the preceding year.

**Background:** In December 2007, the council issued its first report with a list of recommendations that were subsequently codified in Chapter 124 of 2008, the High Performance Buildings Act. The Act required that:

- high performance buildings be defined as those that meet or exceed the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design criteria for a silver rating, or other equivalent rating;
- new or renovated State buildings and new school buildings be constructed as high performance buildings under specific circumstances;
- the departments of General Services and Budget and Management and the Board of Public Works establish processes for granting waivers from this requirement; and
- the State fund 50% of the local share of increased school construction costs associated with high performance buildings in fiscal 2010 through 2014.

Under this bill, the council must continue to carry out the tasks in current law and a new responsibility is added to provide recommendations to expand green building in the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 212 (Senator Frosh, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2009  
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