

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1138

(Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's  
County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Maryland-Washington Regional District - Prince George's County - General  
Plan and Area Master Plans**  
**MC/PG 106-09**

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This bill requires the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to review the general plan for the development of the Prince George's County portion of the Maryland-Washington regional district two years after each U.S. decennial census. The Prince George's County District Council must also consider whether to amend the local area master plan within the regional district once every six years. The decision to amend the local area master plan must be in writing and include reasons for the decision.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County expenditures may increase by a minimal amount to review the general plan in FY 2012 and 2013. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** At the discretion of the district council for each county, M-NCPPC must initiate and adopt a general plan for the development of that portion of the regional district located in each county. While State law does not specify how often the general plan must be updated, the commission is required to initiate and adopt amendments to the general plan "from time to time."

M-NCPPC must initiate and adopt a map of each county within the regional district divided into local planning areas and must initiate and adopt a local area master plan for each area. The local area master plan for each area may be amended or revised from time to time.

**Background:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is a bicounty agency empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and administer a regional system of parks within the Maryland-Washington regional district and administer a general plan for the physical development of the area. M-NCPPC is governed by a 10-member commission with 5 members appointed by the County Executive of Prince George's County and confirmed by the county council, and 5 members appointed by the Montgomery County Council with the approval of the county executive.

The most recent update to the general plan for Prince George's County was completed in 2002. Prior to that, the plan was updated in 1982. Local master plans in the regional district in Prince George's County are updated on a continual basis.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Prince George's County Planning Department will expend staff time and may require additional professional expenses to review the county general plan in fiscal 2012 and 2013. The amount of expenditure increase, if any, will depend on the extent of any updates and revisions that need to be made to the general plan. A review of the general plan can likely be completed with minimal additional resources.

*For illustrative purposes,* a full update of the general plan would likely involve around 600 staff weeks over a two- to three-year period. The Prince George's County budget for fiscal 2001 provided cost estimates on development of the current general plan of \$1 million for the first year and \$870,000 in the second year. The majority of these expenses were for professional services.

As advised by Prince George's County, the requirement that the county review each local area master plan once every six years will not result in an increase in expenditures. Local master plans are updated on a continual basis and the county currently budgets to update a portion of the local area master plans annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince Georges County, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 23, 2009  
mcp/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 6, 2009

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