

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 60 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee, *et al.*) (By Request - Departmental -
Environment)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities -
Membership

This departmental bill expands the membership of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) from 15 to 20 members. The additional members include representatives from the departments of Housing and Community Development, Transportation, and Business and Economic Development, as well as two additional members appointed by the Governor. The bill also specifies that at least 2 of the 12 members appointed by the Governor must represent affected communities concerned with environmental justice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and can be absorbed within the budget of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: MDE has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: “Environmental justice” means equal protection from environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income,

culture, and social status. CEJSC, which was established by executive order in 2001 and codified in 2003, is tasked with examining issues of environmental justice and sustainable communities for all Marylanders. To this end, CEJSC reviews and analyzes the environmental justice implications of current State policy, laws, and regulations; assesses the adequacy of State and local laws to address the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities; coordinates with the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council on recommendations to further environmental justice and sustainable communities; develops criteria to assess whether communities may be experiencing environmental justice issues; and recommends options to the Governor for addressing issues, concerns, or problems related to environmental justice.

MDE advises that the departments of Housing and Community Development, Transportation, and Business and Economic Development currently play a significant role in environmental justice issues, requiring involvement in many CEJSC actions. In addition, MDE advises that greater geographic diversity in representation of members appointed by the Governor is appropriate to reflect the many communities statewide affected by environmental justice issues.

State Expenditures: MDE advises that members have never sought reimbursement for travel expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2010
mpc/lgc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities
- Membership

BILL NUMBER: SB 60

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of the Environment

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.