

HB 1567

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1567 (Delegate McHale)
Environmental Matters

State Highway Administrator - County Construction Projects - Duty to Provide Notice

This bill requires the Administrator of the State Highway Administration (SHA), upon receipt of a request from a county for an engineering review or approval that is required for a construction project to receive federal highway funding, to immediately notify (1) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; (2) all authorized representatives of railroad employees; and (3) any other person the Administrator determines may be affected by the construction project, about the request.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: SHA can absorb the bill's requirements within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: SHA is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound barriers. It also has responsibility for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns. Among other things, SHA's capital construction program provides funding for local capital programs. Recently, SHA allocated \$97.1 million in federal American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities for federal aid eligible capital projects.

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation operates a railroad safety and health program which monitors the safety practices of each railroad company operating in Maryland by conducting inspections of railroad tracks, operating practices, and motive power and equipment. The program also monitors and assists certain railroad operations that are not under federal jurisdiction. State inspectors certified by the Federal Railroad Administration work to improve understanding of railroad standards by private industry and tourist and museum railroad operators who carry passengers but are exempt from federal requirements. State inspectors also promote highway-railroad grade crossings safety and enforce Maryland-specific requirements for track clearances and yard and walkway safety.

Baltimore City advises that the bill is a response to concerns about the pending replacement of the Sinclair Lane Bridge in Baltimore City, which is used by trains associated with CSX Corporation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - April 7, 2010
mlm/lgc

Analysis by: Amanda Mock

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