

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 348
Appropriations

(Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation and Education, Health,
and Environmental Affairs

**Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - New Design and Substantial
Exterior Modification - Notice**

This bill requires Salisbury University (SU), St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), Towson University (TU), and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) to provide notice of certain proposed capital projects by electronic or first-class mail to all adjoining property owners, if the new or modified structure is visible from the adjoining property, and to every local governing body located within one mile of the project site. A local governing body that receives a notice must post the notice on its web site.

The bill applies to the design of a new structure or substantial exterior modification of an existing structure on any land owned, leased, or operated by the higher education institutions, if the new or modified structure is on land that is adjacent to or abuts privately owned land.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Specified higher education institutions can notify property owners and local governing bodies about proposed construction using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local governing bodies can likely post online a copy of any notices received using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: As State units of government, the University System of Maryland (USM) (which includes SU, TU, and UMCP) and SMCM are required to follow a specified process when applying for development permits, which allows for joint hearings before local and State government units for which development permits are required.

Background: UMCP needs to relocate its East Campus facilities to begin the redevelopment of the East Campus site. Working with the developer, UMCP was going to relocate the facilities to the 22.4-acre site west of the Comcast Center known as the Wooded Hillock. The relocation would have required the removal of 8.75 acres of forest on the site. The plan was opposed by some members of the community and UMCP students, faculty, and staff.

In January 2010, UMCP announced its plan to purchase an 18-acre site in College Park that was formerly the location of the *Washington Post's* production plant and relocate the East Campus facilities there. The deal still requires approval of the State's Board of Public Works, which is expected to vote on the purchase on February 10, 2010.

USM reports that some USM institutions already involve the community during their facilities master planning process, and the Board of Regents has encouraged all the remaining institutions to do the same.

In 2009, TU updated its Master Plan to include a new \$45 million basketball arena on the campus. TU and the nearby community of Rodgers Forge reached an agreement in mid-February 2009 on the location of the new arena. TU is also in the process of building a new liberal arts complex.

SU is in the process of building its new Perdue School of Business. SMCM recently completed its new River Center and is in the process of planning a new music and auditorium building.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 334 (Senator Rosapepe) - Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Department of Transportation, University System of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2010
ncs/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 2010

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