

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 88 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Environment)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Environmental Matters

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**Environment - Controlled Hazardous Substance Advisory Council**

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This departmental bill increases the term length for members of the Controlled Hazardous Substance Advisory Council from 6 years to 10 years, and requires the council to meet only at the request of the Secretary of the Environment. In addition, the bill alters the membership to authorize the Governor to appoint the pesticides coordinator's designee in place of the pesticides coordinator. Finally, it repeals the requirements to annually elect a chairperson and select the times and places of the council meetings.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) decrease minimally to the extent the bill reduces the frequency of council meetings. Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. By decreasing the number of meetings MDE must staff, the bill frees up staff time to work on higher priority functions. Revenues are not affected.

**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.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Controlled Hazardous Substance Advisory Council was established by Chapter 618 of 1976 to advise and assist MDE on issues such as the identification of controlled hazardous substances and the development of regulations for their

management and disposal. The council consists of 13 members who serve terms of six years. From among the public members, the council annually must elect a chairperson. The council must determine the times and places of its meetings. Council members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement under the standard State travel regulations.

**Background:** The council generally meets on the second Thursday of every other month (six times per year) at MDE. In addition to its statutory charge, the council also occasionally reviews State legislation, interstate hazardous waste control efforts, and federal regulatory developments; convenes task forces as needed to address particular issues; conducts enforcement reviews and provides input on MDE programs; and coordinates with other similar entities, among other activities. By reducing the number of meetings, MDE advises that it can reduce related expenses and reallocate staff time in accordance with current priorities. MDE advises that it currently assigns three staff members from the Waste Management Administration to the council for meeting preparation. For each meeting, this includes six hours of work from an administrative officer, three hours from a program manager, and three hours from a regulatory and compliance engineer. MDE also spends a minimal amount of funds on travel, communication, and supplies for each meeting.

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### **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 20, 2010  
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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Environment – Controlled Hazardous Substance Advisory Council

BILL NUMBER: SB 88

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.