

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 424 (Senator Pugh, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Midtown Community Benefits District Management Authority

This bill requires the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to require that the Board of Directors of the Midtown Community Benefits District Management Authority include two voting members from the Concerned Citizens of St. Paul Street and Penn Station.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill will not directly affect Baltimore City operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Baltimore City is authorized to establish up to six community benefits district management authorities, including the Charles Village Community Benefits District and the Midtown Community Benefits District, within the city to provide services to the business interests and residents of the proposed district. In adopting an ordinance, the city council must (1) give consideration to the views of the property owners, the retail merchants, the property tenants, and the other members of the business and residential communities within the district; (2) make a determination that a district will reflect a diverse mix of business and residential properties; and (3) make a determination that a district created will reflect a diverse economic, social, and racial mix.

Background: The Midtown Community Benefits District serves the Bolton Hill, Charles North, Madison Park, and Mount Vernon neighborhoods of Baltimore City. It was authorized in 1996 and is a citizen-run neighborhood advocacy and improvement group that provides security and sanitation services along with promotional activities for the four communities it serves. Funding for the benefits district is provided by a taxpayer-approved property tax surcharge, which is currently set at \$0.132 per \$100 of value.

The management authority's board of directors includes two representatives from each of the four community organizations, one representative of the mayor, one representative of the city council, a business representative, two nonprofit representatives, and four at-large members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 357 (Delegate B. Robinson, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2012
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