

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 175

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County Revenue Authority - Public Ethics Law

This bill specifies that the board members and chief executive of the Baltimore County Revenue Authority are local officials subject to all Baltimore County public ethics laws.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect Baltimore County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the Maryland Public Ethics Law, the executive director and each member of the Baltimore County Revenue Authority are subject to Baltimore County financial disclosure provisions. Counties and municipalities are required, under the Maryland Public Ethics Law, to enact provisions to govern the public ethics of local officials relating to conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbying.

A “local official” is generally an official, officer, or employee of a county or municipality that the governing body of the county or municipality determines is subject to the local government’s public ethics laws. For certain counties, however, certain officials are included in the definition of a “local official.” In Baltimore County, for the purpose of the financial disclosure provisions enacted by Baltimore County, “local official” includes the executive director and each member of the revenue authority.

Under the public ethics provisions of the Baltimore County Code, the chairman, members, and executive director of the revenue authority are among a list of county officials required to file financial disclosure statements. Otherwise, the county public ethics provisions generally apply to a “public official,” defined as (1) an employee of the county, including an elected or appointed official, and (2) an individual elected or appointed to serve on any county board, agency, commission, or similar entity.

Background: The Baltimore County Revenue Authority consists of three major businesses; a parking division, golf division, and the Reisterstown Sportsplex. Over the past 20 years, the authority has financed and constructed parking facilities, golf courses, a District Court facility, a library expansion, and the Reisterstown Sportsplex. The authority also manages and operates parking facilities, golf courses, and the sportsplex.

The Baltimore County Revenue Authority was created by the General Assembly in 1955. The Office of the Attorney General has advised that the county does not have the authority to amend the law governing the revenue authority or to enact legislation otherwise affecting the revenue authority or its operations, without General Assembly authorization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Office of the Attorney General, Baltimore County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2012
mc/kdm Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2012
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 14, 2012

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