

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 62

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Housing and
Community Development)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Community Legacy Program - Application Requirements - Approval by
Authorized Designee

This departmental bill authorizes a political subdivision to approve an application for a sustainable community plan or community legacy project by delivery of a letter (in lieu of a resolution) to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) by the political subdivision's authorized designee. If an application affects a sustainable community within more than one political subdivision, each political subdivision may approve the application by letter. DHCD is likewise authorized to approve a plan or project that has been approved by a political subdivision by letter.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: DHCD has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: DHCD may not approve an application for a sustainable community plan or a community legacy project unless the political subdivision in which the project is located approves the application by resolution. If an application affects a sustainable

community within more than one political subdivision, each political subdivision must approve it by resolution.

Community legacy projects include those that help create or preserve housing opportunities, support demolition of buildings or improvements to enhance land use, and develop public infrastructure (*e.g.*, parking, landscaping) related to a community legacy project. A “sustainable community plan” means a plan consisting of one or more community legacy projects or other revitalization projects to prevent or reverse the decline of or disinvestment in a sustainable community through improvements in residential, commercial, or other public or private properties.

Background: The Community Legacy Program under DHCD was established by Chapter 567 of 2001 to create a process and funding source for several types of revitalization projects. The program provides local governments and community development organizations with financial assistance to strengthen communities through such activities as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership, and commercial revitalization. Program funds are restricted to designated sustainable communities.

DHCD indicates that the current application approval process – which requires a local government resolution – is time consuming, and that the bill reduces the administrative burden on local governments in which projects or plans are located by allowing them to authorize a designee to approve project applications through a letter of support.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Housing and Community Development, Kent and Montgomery counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 9, 2013
ns/lgc

Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Community Legacy Program – Application Requirements – Authorizing Local Designee

BILL NUMBER: SB 62

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

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.